1
ウメ種
イラスト●柴乃櫂人
神殺しの英雄と七つの誓約
Kamigoroshinoeiyu and Ermenhilde
エルメンヒルデ
OVERLAP

These are the illustrations from the Light Novel version of Volume 1.

Note that some differences may exist as there might be some changes from WN to LN.

神殺しの英雄と七つの誓約
Kamigoroshinoeiyu and Ermenhilde
エルメンヒルデ
ウメ種／イラスト●柴乃櫂人

Character

【英雄の弟子】
フランシェスカ・バートン

【神殺し】
山田蓮司

Kamigoroshinoeiyu
and
Ermenhilde

視線の先、紅い月明かりを反射する湖の浅瀬でフランシェスカ嬢は静かに浮いていた。
目を奪われるほどに美しい風景に、僅かの間だが見惚れてしまった。
足を止め、ほう、と吐息を吐く。
ただただ、視線を奪われるだけの魅力が、眼前の景色にはあった。

「やるぞ、エルメンヒルデ」
『ああ。やろう、レンジ』

神殺しの英雄と七つの誓約
Kamigoroshinoeiyu and Ermenhilde
エルメンヒルデ
1
ウメ種
イラスト●柴乃櫂人

【神殺しの武器】エルメンヒルデ

Ermenhilde

蓮司の相棒的存在の喋るメダル。その正体はかつて蓮司が女神より授かった『神殺しの武器』。剣や槍等、様々な武器形態になれる。

【英雄の弟子】フランシェスカ・バートン

Francesca Burton

アルバーナ魔術学院の生徒。貴族の家の三女であり、のんびりとした性格。魔術学院の試験である魔物討伐をクリアするため、蓮司から戦い方を学ぶ。落とし穴系魔術師の一人。

キャラクター紹介

【神殺し】山田蓮司（ヤマダレンジ）

女神から授かったチート：『神を殺す武器』

Yamada Renji

かつて魔神討伐のため異世界より召喚された、十三人の英雄の中心人物。魔神討伐直後に行方をくらましたため、殆どの人は彼を知らない。自己評価が低く、そのため他の仲間達から一線引いたような立ち位置をとっている。相棒は"喋るメダル"エルメンヒルデ。

神殺しの力を得るための
『七つの制約』

1. 『本人の戦う意思』
2. 『誰かを守る』
3. 『神との戦い』
4. ???
5. ???
6. ???
7. ???

Kamigoroshi no Eiyuu to Nanatsu no Seiyaku

(神殺しの英雄と七つの誓約)

The God Slaying Hero and the Seven Covenants

Umetane

Artist : 柴乃櫂人

Synopsis:

Three years ago, to defeat the Demon God who was trying to destroy this world, thirteen braves are summoned from another world. Each of them had varied ages and gender. Each of them was bestowed with cheat like powers not normal in this world.

- One asked for indomitable will against any adversity.
- One asked for god-like magic power.
- One asked for a power to heal everyone.
- One asked for a power to cook foods that will bring smile to everyone.

And so forth, each of them conveyed their wish and were granted what they asked for so that they could complete their quest. They then departed, on adventure to defeat the demon god. For two years, they journeyed together and survived many hardships in this world, through joy, sadness, and discord; they persevered and in the end brilliantly defeated the demon god, brought peace to this world and then decided to live there. Among those thirteen, is one man that hid his whereabouts and disappeared after defeating the Demon God, but everyone would say: It is he, the center of the thirteen braves, who is

far more heroic than others.

It is he, who valiantly stands on the foremost line, protecting the others behind him.

It is he, the strongest man that killed the demon god.

And it is he, the only one who is blessed and loved the most by the goddess.

Original Story can be found here: Link

Transation source can be found here: Link

Table of Contents

Web Novel Volume 1

- Chapter 0
- Chapter 1
- Chapter 2
- Chapter 3
- Chapter 4
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 6
- Interlude 1
- Chapter 7
- Chapter 8
- Chapter 9
- Chapter 10
- Chapter 11
- Interlude 2

Credits

Web Novel Volume 1

Chapter 0

*

As I woke up, I felt a bit nostalgic.

As I raised my head from the wooden table, the joints of my body ached a bit. Probably because I slept in a weird position.

I stretched my body muscles which felt really nice.

Next, I shook my head as an unpleasant *gokigoki* dull sound came. Due to that sound, the old man shopkeeper behind the counter gave a frown and looked towards me.

“You’re finally awake.”

His words sounded especially harsh as he polished a cup in his hands.

Envying that behaviour a bit, I opened my eyelids heavy due to alcohol and turned my face towards him.

“Yeah, the sake here is really delicious. I was able to see a really good dream.”

I think it was a dream of the past.

I felt something inside my chest become a bit warmer.

I wonder if my old comrades were still doing fine.

Thinking that, I once again shook my head.

I had shared everything with those guys and girls.

Summoned as a Brave, expectations as a hero, and was wished to kill a god.

—-It’s really nostalgic. In my chest dwelled nostalgia about those days and a slight bit of regret.

Behaved like a brave, returned triumphantly as heroes and were envied as God-slayers.

I wonder how my comrades think about me who ran away from that

pressure.

They would probably resent me, I concluded.

Unfortunately, I didn't have the courage to ascertain that.

And I had no intention to do so either from here onwards.

On the counter dimly lit by a candle, I brought out a copper coin from my almost empty purse and spoke with a dried voice.

"I'll leave the calculations to you."

"Yeah, just go back already. Don't get drunk and fall asleep on the side of the road alright?"

"haha. I'll be careful."

Getting up from my wooden chair, I ended up stumbling a bit. I can't move my legs properly due to the alcohol.

Looking at me like that, the shopkeeper once again gave a sigh.

It seems the time has already become quite late. Even though it's night, there's no other customer who is still drinking here.

Well, another reason might be that there aren't many inhabitants in the first place as well though.

I once again bowed towards the old shopkeeper who kept the store open till I woke up and left the store.

The cold wind stroked my body and I felt sobering up a little.

Actually, my steps are still quite unstable.

Thinking that this is the end of a man who was once a Brave and had been cheered as a Hero, I could only laugh.

It has been 3 years since we were summoned. It took 2 years to defeat the Demon God.

The past 1 year, I parted from my comrades and drew back to this village to live leisurely with money received as the reward for killing the Demon God.

Maybe, they might have already forgotten about me.

When I thought that, rather than feeling miserable I felt relieved instead.

I was not someone who had the capacity to become a Brave or a Hero.

A different world—-13 people who were summoned from Earth to become Saviours.

To defeat the 'Demon God' that wanted to destroy the world, 12 people with cheat skills were summoned along with me.

I was not a magician that could easily defeat the world's strongest magician easily, neither was I swordsman that could cut up a 10m golem with a single slash.

It's not like I have good mind, neither am I good at strategies nor am I good at healing people. I'm not skilful enough to make lots of items either.

It was painful to be with those guys and girls who could do that/

Different world summoning. Saviour. The Divine Protection of the Goddess. The trust of the royalty. The expectations of the people.

I really think that those 12 who moved forwards while bearing all that are really amazing.

But unfortunately, all that was too heavy for me.

"Ah.....I'm sleepy."

In the night sky, the moon shined with a reddish tinge.

That colour was the proof that this was a different world. I drowsily sighed.

If I kept on sleeping like that, I think I would dream about the past again.

Somehow confident of that fact, I kept on walking through the streets at night.

In this world that has no electricity, it became awfully dark after the

sun set.

In the royal capital, there were street lights made of magical energy so it was slightly brighter but that was not so in this rural village where I currently am.

Relying on the dim light of the moon, I headed for the inn where I have rented a room.

I yawned once more.

What should I do tomorrow?

I thought about it as I kicked the pebbles with my hide boots.

Well I'll think of something somehow.

Taking some requests at the adventurer guild to earn some small change, eat meals and drink sometimes.

Three years after coming to this world. 2 years were spent in defeating the demon god and the remaining 1 year in the way I mentioned above.

The other guys seem to be using their abilities to make a living apparently.

Popularising a game that was popular in our original world, improving the government and improving the living standard in general.

I even heard that they were living as knights at the royal castle and earning money by defeating monsters as well.

Well, changing the world sounds much more difficult than saving it actually. But they still must be living to their fullest I think.

I'm sure they would not be living a life like me who has trouble for money.

"It's cold."

As the night breeze stroked my body, I shivered from its coldness.

And I sighed.

No internet, no car, no way to go back to our world and no way to get

into contact with parents or friends.

It's just like our connections were instantly severed.

But still, I still can't come to hate this world.

Unable to hate it but at the same time unable to like it like the others either, I have been living here half-assedly. If I was asked whether I like it or hate it, I'll probably say I like it. But I really can't say that with much pride.

Really, what am I doing?

Sigh

As I looked up, the reddish moon was looking down on me.

"I need to gather some money."

Since I paid the hotel charges in advance and in full, I'll be fine for a while but the contents of my purse will soon be empty.

A Brave summoned from another world and a God Slaying hero––I'm one of them.

But even then, I'm troubled about the money for tomorrow's meal right now.

That reality was really laughable.

Chapter 1 Hero and the Newbie Adventurer

*

Yamada Renji was a normal working adult of the society.

His dream during his childhood was to be a pro baseball player.

At school, his results were around the hundredth rank in a school of 400 students.

His hobby is reading. After graduating from high school, driving also became one.

It's not like he hated being social either.

According to him, without revealing too much individuality and to blend in with the surroundings was also a part of social disposition.

He was not a leader type of person. If one were to describe him, he was a mob character no.3 or villager C type of a person.

His age was 28 this year. He was summoned when he was 25.

After getting summoned, the first thing he felt was not enjoyment like the other boys and girls around him but was-what about work? How to earn our livelihood? And other such truly realistic things.

This world was made with 3 countries and 5 continents.

Firstly, the country where Yamada Renji and the others were summoned, the human country [Imnesia].

The country ruled by the demi humans, [Elfreim]. This country was built on the largest continent.

And, the continent of darkness where the demons live, [Abenelm]. It ruled over three continents and is the largest country.

13 humans were summoned to this different world. One of the three gods that created this world, the goddess [Astraera] gave them blessings in the form of cheat-like powers and they became god slayers.

Most of them were in their teens and were students.

The only one in their twenties were me and 2 men and 1 woman. No matter how I looked at it, it was an inconsistent group. (T/N: yup, the POV changed somewhere in between. Probably when they started explaining the world.) .....It's a really nostalgic memory.

We fought, clashed with each other and separated. But still, in the end, we joined hands with each other, overcame dangers and laughed.

Our relationships weren't exactly bad but they were not really good either.

There was a fight to decide who will take the Holy sword of the Goddess.

Who to save, who to abandon. We even cried at reality during such times.

Asking for food even when we could not read, and then sharing shitty food with each other was also something that happened.

The guys going to peek at the women's bath and then returning while almost getting killed, was also a great memory. At that time, we felt more risk to our lives than the times when we faced high level demons in the area.

Yeah, it really is a nostalgic and much missed memory.

.

.

.

[Are you awake yet, sleepyhead?]

That voice came from near my pillow.

It resounded inside my head. A voice like a man yet like a woman's, it was a neutral gendered voice.

As I turned my sleepy eyes, I saw the medal that I had gotten used to seeing in this past year.

The rim is golden and in the centre, a jade is attached. Around it, 7 different coloured stones have been embedded.

Three years ago, I received this talking medal before leaving on the journey to defeat the Demon God.

It is the origin of the cheat skill that I, Yamada Renji, possesses.

It's a medal that talks, has a soul and a will of its own.

"…….Good Morning."

[You're still weak at mornings as usual.]

Leave me be. I muttered inside my mind as my head swayed due to hangover.

As I raised my body, dazzling sunlight shined through from the gaps between the curtains.

"I overslept."

[Seriously. It seems you had fun alone yesterday night it seems.]

"I just went drinking."

[I wonder about that.]

Getting up from the bed, I poured water out of the water jug kept on the table inside my glass.

As I drank it in a single gulp, I felt the pain from my hangover getting a bit lesser.

[Go wash your face. It looks really bad.]

"Are you my mother?"

[I wouldn't want a child like you ever.]

Seriously.

This lifestyle that depends on how I live every day.

Although it can be called having freedom but right now I have neither my own house nor any savings.

A guy who will have to discuss with the contents of his wallet before deciding on today's meal; no one would want to take a guy like that as a son.

Continuing our usual conversation, I poured water from the jug inside the basin installed in the room.

This world does not have a water line supply system.

The manager of the inn would go to the river everyday to bring water for use. Water is precious here.

Washing my face with that water, I shaved my beard.

By the time I completely refreshed myself, both my hangover and drowsiness had completely subsided "ahh I really want to live an enjoyable life."

"……Really."

The medal and I both gave a sigh. Well, I wonder if I can use the word 'both' here. I and one thing would be a better way to say it.

As I thought such things, I finished changing.

My clothes were a tunic and dark green trousers. With this, I also look like a person from this world.

Sword? Of course I don't have something like that.

This world as a world of swords and magic but unfortunately I had to pawn off the famous sword I received from the kingdom since I was low on money.

If I had sold it to a collector, I could have received quite a big amount but unfortunately the one I sold it too was a weapon shop in a rural village. So I only received enough money to feed myself for one week.

After knowing that, I was scolded by this medal for two days straight.

I have a personality that doesn't dwell too much on the past. I did feel down about it though.

"Let's work hard to collect medicinal herbs today as well, I guess?"

[A God slaying hero is working hard to collect medicinal herbs.....pathetic.]

“Such honest and plain jobs are also important you know?”

[Let the villagers and newbie adventurers do it, such plain and honest jobs. And you should take on the more riskier jobs.]

“No way, it’s scary.”

Even I think it’s pathetic.

During the journey to defeat the Demon God, I fought against a 3m big wolf, a 10m big devil and even human eating plants.

But, each and every one of them were defeated by my comrades.

A swordsman that possessed inhumane ability, a mage that was said to match even a God, and a warrior that could swing a weapon bigger than himself with ease.

Surrounded by such guys, I was nothing more than a villager C level of guy.

It’s amazing they didn’t abandon me I think.

Rather than that, I still think its weird that I ended up journeying with such guys.

It’s amazing I came out alive. That must be the greatest miracle ever.

.

.

.

In every village and town of the Imnesia continent, there will always be an adventurer guild no matter what the size of that village or town was.

There, requests from the people were collected and those completed such requests were rewarded.

The Demon got had been defeated and the number of demons had decreased but still the occupation of adventurers continued like always

and did not die out. That was because there were still other jobs like collecting medicinal herbs or collecting some specific ingredients and materials or arresting thieves etc as well.

An adventurer was the biggest and the most risky job in this world.

Leaving the demon god aside, even normal demons could not be defeated by adventurers easily in one-on-one battles.

Physical strength, Intelligence, magical energy. Even with high levels in all these fields, a slime famous in RPGs was still the worst enemy one could face in reality.

It won't die no matter how much you cut or hit it. They needed to be either burned or frozen by magic to be defeated.

What the hell is that monster?! That was how I cursed it the first time I saw it.

Even I have a somewhat strong self-confidence. Just the fact that I stuck through till the end of the journey to defeat the Demon King granted a small level of pride to me.

But nevertheless, I have no intention to go fighting demons alone.

If I was with that cheat group, then it might have been fine but I don't have such a power.

Goblin? Kobold? Those guys live in swarms and I would lose my life if I slipped even a little. I have no intention to solo such monsters.

I, who only had the answer 'no' to most of the things, should just diligently go to the nearby forest to collect medicinal herbs as usual. Deciding that inside my heart, I came in front of the guild.

Inside my pocket, the medal is complaining as usual.

This cursed medal is recommending me to go defeat demons for some reason.

Well there are reasons behind it as well but, that's, well, I'll explain gradually.

Or rather, it's a major pain in the ass.

[Renji, you.....that face, it's the same face you make when you feel doing something is a pain.]

"I intend to properly do my job."

Just what does this medal think of me?

I can perfectly earn enough money to keep myself living.

Also, don't complain about someone's face from inside a pocket. I was born with this face.

Complaining inside my mind, I opened the door of the guild. Inside a few adventurers were there.

Most of them were younger than me. Just one of them was big enough to be mistaken for a bear.

In Imnesia, it was not unusual for people to work at the guild from their early teens.

Or rather, it was a world where children less than 10yrs old were also working to earn money.

By the way, the jobs done by children were no risk jobs like gathering medicinal herbs to which I have taken a liking to.

I, who had yet to get bored of gathering medicinal herbs, became the centre of attention of all people inside.

.....their gazes hurt. I apologised inside my mind. Really sorry, to take the jobs for newbies.

Also, only I can hear the voice of this cursed medal. This really is a cursed medal.

Just how many times had I embarrassed myself during the beginning.....just remembering it makes me irritated.

It could make so that everyone else could also hear it, but it'll stand out too much so that's also troublesome.

I don't want to stand out.

Not a God slaying hero but Villager C. That's my current stance.

"Good……Morning?"(Renji)

"It's afternoon already. You must have overslept after drinking too much till late at night, right?"

Now that's harsh.

While thinking that, I walked towards the boy who said that while sighing at the reception.

And suddenly I realized.

"Good morning?"

"Hello."

I answered like this who gave her greeting with a smile while tilting her head to a side.

To think that she would actually reply back to my greeting…….

I'm the one greeted first yet I'm the one who is surprised as well.

Her honey coloured hair swayed as a pleasant smell came to my nose.

She had looks that would make 7/10 people say that she was a beauty. The rest 3 would probably say that she was extremely beautiful.

She had green eyes, a tall nose and a slightly small mouth.

Her height was around the average height of a woman. She came to around my shoulder.

Her clothes were similar to a normal adventurer made out skins of various monsters.

The gemmed necklace around her neck was the only womanly thing among her boorish attire and equipment.

Well, I tried to give an impression like an expert but somehow this girl doesn't really feel like an adventurer.

Also her equipment looks brand new as well.

"Are you a newcomer?"(renji)

“Ah, so you can tell?”

The beauty gave a smile.

So this is what a smile that feels like a flower bloomed looks like.

As I looked from above, I could also see the valley made by forcefully wearing a breastplate over her—-oh my.

“Your face is grinning.”

“Children should shut up.”(Renji)

[.....How deplorable.]

Shut up.

Don’t interrupt my concentration to remember this beauty who I might never meet again.

“Are you here to look for a job? I also want to take the job to collect medicinal herbs though.”(renji) She had nodded when I asked if she was a newcomer but is she really planning on becoming an adventurer?

No qualifications are needed to become an adventurer.

As long as you don’t have any criminal record, anyone can become one. In truth, even a criminal can become an adventurer if he can fake his social status.

Most of the women who try to become adventurers are usually ones that have money problems.

The rest of them have some kind of mission like us.

Well, that’s a rare exception though.

Most of the adventurers take this job to earn money quickly. If you want to safely earn money then you should become a shopkeeper of a store like this young boy.

But the girl in front of me was.....at least it doesn’t look she has money problems.

Or rather, I wouldn’t doubt it if someone said that she was actually a

noble. Somehow, I can feel some sort of elegance that's not found in us unrefined adventurers. Also, I decided to warn her so that she doesn't take my job as well.

I heard a sigh come from inside my pocket, but it must be my imagination.

"No, I here to subjugate demons."(beauty)

"....."

I moved my sight from the beauty towards the boy at the reception.

"No way. That's impossible. Without any experience its too dangerous."(boy) "Thought as much."(Renji)

"Or rather, you should be the one to subjugate demons and not collect medicinal herbs."(boy) "No way, it's too scary."

Look here, I pointed towards my waist.

There was no weapon there.

I had pawned off my sword, though I spent it all yesterday night.....that's a bit sad.

I don't even have something like a dagger.

All I have is this body.

Do you want me to fist fight with a demon? That's impossible. With my fists, I can't even break open fruits let alone things like rocks.

A monster that could break rocks with his fists was––for the time being, let's just say, that I have 2 acquaintances that can do that.

They are cheat holders after all.

"Lazy bastard."(boy)

"My dream is to earn money while enjoying and live my life in peace."(renji) [Abandon such a dream.]

Don't find faults in my dream, you stupid medal.

"That's a brilliant dream. Can you earn money comfortably?"(beauty)

“Dreams are called dreams because they never come true.”(boy) My heart was pierced by the beauty’s smile who was encouraging my dream.

Also, the boy at the reception counter said some philosophical things as he sighed.

“You won’t be able to become a proper adult if you’re like that, boy.”(renji) “If it means becoming someone like you, then I’m fine with not becoming a proper adult.”(boy) Such harsh words.

Shrugging my shoulders, I stretched my hands towards the bundle of requests kept on the table.

This bundle was divided into three categories. They are-gathering of materials and herbs, escorting villagers or carriages, and subjugation of monsters/demons.

If one were to go to the royal capital, the thickness of each bundle was-monster subjugation the biggest, second was escort missions and last and the thinnest was material procurement ones.

Well, that’s inconsequential, I’m not going to go there anyway.

If I was found by my old comrades it’ll be troublesome.

While I was thinking of such things, the woman was moving towards the bundle of monster subjugation requests.

She has such pretty and thin fingers.

Yup, she really is a complete newbie adventurer.

“Is there any subjugation quest that even I can do?”(beauty) “No.”(boy)

Immediate reply. Well it’s obvious though.

As she looked towards that bear faced adventurer inside the guild, he averted his eyes.

Probably, she might have consulted him before I came here.

His face is rough, but maybe he had invited her to his party.

The woman is beautiful after all, nobody would be reluctant to invite her but subjugating monsters was really not acceptable.

The people of this world do not possess cheat like power like me.

They have to fight with their lives on the line even after expertly training in sword or magic.

The main reason for the deaths among young adventurers is due to them recklessly taking on subjugation quests like this woman, out of curiosity, and get killed.

That's all there was to it.

But I silently handed one of the memos from the collecting items pile and gave it to her.

"It's dangerous you know?"(Renji)

"I'm well aware of the danger."(beauty)

funsu the woman struck her chest with her left arm.

It swayed. It really swayed slightly behind the armour.

[Tch]

Inside my pocket, I felt killing intent leaking out as the medal clicked its tongue so I quickly averted my gaze.

It's because it is unbecoming of a gentleman to stare at a woman's chest, obviously.

ahem I coughed once.

"I can't really recommend that."

"But still, I can only subjugate monsters now. That is the only way left for me."

Those words sounded really serious. It could be, that her voice felt like crying a bit as well.

Her voice was serious but……I looked towards the boy at the reception behind the woman.

He was shaking his head.

Well obviously.

If they allowed a newbie to go on a monster subjugation, it'll be considered as a failure of the management staff of the guild.

After earning some experience through herb gathering and escort missions, only then is one allowed to take subjugation quests. Also, they will still not be allowed to go alone.

It must be a party of at least 2 or 3 members. It's the same for even pro adventurers who have been doing this for many years.

That's how strong the monsters of this world are.

Even the lowest Goblin or Kobolds, if they attacked in a swarm, could make those pros become extremely cautious.

And Slime is traumatic experience.

If a magician took care of it from long range then it'll be fine, but if an adventurer challenged it at close range, it was nothing less than a nightmare.

"It seems you have special circumstances but you see."

Only this cannot be helped with. That has been decided by the guild.

As an adventurer, one must abide by the rules.

If you cannot do so, then you're just an outlaw.

I took one page of herb gathering and handed it over to the woman.

"First finish herb gathering and escort missions. Soon, you'll be able to get experience for monster subjugation within 1 month at least."

I can't say anything more than that.

Looking away from me, the woman left the guild. It seems she'll accept the herb gathering quest.

"Too bad. I wanted to get closer to her....."(renji)

"Renji-san wouldn't suit her at all. Yup."(boy)

Don't say that happily boy. I'll cry.

As I saw the woman off, my shoulder was clapped from behind.

As I looked back, the bear faced old man was there.

“You weren’t wrong. I had said the same thing.”(bearface) “I see.”

I wonder if it’d be fine.

Looking at her, I feel that she might do something reckless alone.

I’m saying that from experience. Well if I need to thank someone, it’d be the comrades I had travelled with……I felt her actions were very similar to those youths.

In this case, will it be my responsibility because I didn’t lend her a helping hand?

…….I want to think that’s not so.

[That girl is going to do something extremely rash.]

I sighed.

I should have known.

I took a memo from the herb gathering bundle and left the guild.

I brought out a coin from my pocket and flipped it with my thumb.

As I grabbed the coin as it fell, I opened my palm.

The coin was, tails. It’s a miss.

“Shall we go, Ermenhilde?”

[Roger that, my master.]

I heard the neutral gendered voice, as if it was having fun.

Chapter 2 Hero and the Newbie Adventurer (2)

*

When you think of monsters you think of forests.

I don't know who started this, but it is apparently a part of the mistaken common sense of this world.

By the way, we also thought the same when we first came to the world. A bit away from the highway were the grasslands and even further were the dark forests.

There, the encounter rate would be higher, was what one of our game expert comrade had said.

But that's not actually true.

Sure, there are definitely monsters in the forest. But in actuality, those grasslands and plains were actually more troublesome.

Especially, those goblins that the woman with the honey coloured hair was looking for.

Those guys come in swarms. They would definitely not act alone. The least would be in a group of three but at times they also move in groups of 10 as well.

If it was a cave, they could be dealt with without getting yourself surrounded by them.

But in a plain grassland, they'll surround you with numbers and attack from your blind spot.

Is that woman aware of such things?

[Your personality is still the same.]

"Really.....even though it won't do me anything good."

Since I couldn't refute it, I agreed.

Just how many times have I worked like this for free.

Even though I have money problems, I still do things that won't earn me anything.

Also its pretty difficult when everyone around you puts faith in you.

No matter what anyone says, defeating monsters is the most rewarding job of an adventurer.

An adventurer who doesn't fight will be looked at with a suitable gaze.

Especially me, who doesn't take any other quest than herb gathering which is free of danger.

But that's because I can live with just that.

I won't come under any danger.

Otherwise, I won't be able to stay alive. Especially me, who was the weakest among the 13.

[Haah]

Don't sigh, I'll also become sad.

A rescue fairy had not come nor was I requested by anyone.

So, there will be no reward. It'll be just work for me.

I understand if you want to sigh. I understand but please forgive me.

Isn't saving a person a beautiful thing? I wish I could get a reward for that as well though.

If I can save that beautiful woman, I think I'll ask her about it.

It's not like I'm a saint. And I can't live on just air either.

I need money to keep living. To eat, to rent a room at an inn, and also to get some equipment, I need money.

.....seriously, we really worked completely for free when we were heroes.

Everything might have been for the sake of the people but it was never for our own self.

It's really a truth I can cry to.

[O.Renji, near your feet.]

That's unusual. The cursed medal Ermenhilde raised a voice with excitement.

Just as that voice had said, as I looked near my feet, I saw a copper coin.

In this world, the value system was copper coin -> gold coin -> silver coin, in that order.

Normally you'd think that gold should have more value but gold could not be enchanted with magic and it was heavier on top of it.

Well silver was also heavy but it could be enchanted with magic and was also useful against ghosts and undeads making them lose regenerating power, or turning them to ash.

Due to that, in this world, different from the usual fantasy world, the value of silver and gold had been reversed.

This made me think that the Gold Armours shown in Fantasies must have been so heavy.

I want to try wearing that once. Though I think I won't be able to even move after that.

Well anyway, leaving that aside, I picked up the copper coin from the ground.

"Good job."

[With this you can buy two pieces of bread.]

For the time being, my problem for today's dinner has been solved.

By the way, one piece of copper coin can buy two pieces of bread or one piece of jerky.

To have lunch at a slightly stylish restaurant, you'll need about 20 copper coins.

Fufun, while humming, I walked through the plains with light steps.

You really should always help people. Yup.

[.....Ah, I feel like crying a bit.]

“Can you even cry with a body like that?”

[Shut up.....this poor lifestyle, it’s piercing into the core of my body.”

Looks like, it is feeling down.

Probably, due to overly huge pride, it was unable to bear the fact that it actually became happy from finding small change on the road.

It happens sometimes so I should just leave it be.

Even after feeling down so much, if it actually felt happy from finding small change, there is already no room for saving.

Also, there’s the fact that Ermenhilde found it faster than me, so it really can’t be helped.

As I walked while flipping the copper coin with my thumb, I heard the faint sound of swords clashing.

“As expected.....”

I gave a sigh.

Why do young ones always do reckless things.

As I moved my gaze, I couldn’t see the woman. In my sight was a 3m big rock that had been marked by the village.

I had thought that she’d move towards the places that stood out, and it seems I was right.

Probably, the woman is currently on the other side of the rock.

To make sure that I’m not too late, I trotted closer towards the rock and decided to peek and see the situation.

The first thing that came into my sight was the woman with honey coloured hair that I had just met earlier.

Some parts of her clothes had been torn, but at least she still looks fine. I breathed a sigh in relief.

And facing her was a monster at the same height of an elementary

schooler, with ashen skin; it was Goblins.

In its hand were long swords, battleaxes and hammers that must have been stolen from an adventurer.

It had a big and tall nose compared to its face and its ears were large as well. If one were to put the two ears together it might be big enough as its face, I think.

Goblins looked like proud creatures to me.

Though it is only my personal judgement gained from the many times I had to fight them.

Those Goblins swung their weapons lightly and were slowly driving the woman to a corner.

[fumu. So she was still alive.]

“Oh, you’re back to normal?”

[Shut up. I’ll kill you.]

“yeah, yeah.”

While ignoring its threats and jeers, I observed the woman as she fought the numerous Goblins.

Not much time must have passed since the start of battle.

Back then she didn’t have a weapon but right now she had pretty good looking short sword.

She must have gone to the weapon shop after parting from me and then gone off to hunting.

Probably, it’s been around 10mins or so.

But still, the woman was breathing heavily and was holding the light short sword with both of her hands.

There were 5 goblins and each of them seemed pretty composed.

After all they are superior in both skill and numbers.

If they attacked while surrounding someone, even a intermediate level

adventurer could face defeat.

They could instantly take care of a newbie adventurer. But without being to forceful, they're waiting for their enemy to weaken and stop moving.

That's the most troublesome part of monsters. They had the intelligence to make sure they have the advantage in a fight.

This time, they were using their difference in numbers to weaken their enemy.

Because this an open grassland, if they surround the enemy, they could attack from blind spots and even if the enemy were to block it, he'll still exhaust lot of concentration and stamina quickly.

When inside a cave, there are times when they even lay down traps as well. Ambushes or pitfalls, etc. that's how intelligent they are.

Especially humanoid monsters are strikingly so.

[She doesn't look like she'll hold much longer.]

"I know."

In my sight, the woman keeps on getting cornered.

The only reason they haven't killed her yet is because they're playing with her.

When your prey is just one and an amateur at that, it's not weird for them to have sadistic tendencies.

Well thanks to that I was able to make it in time though.

I know that it's already a miracle for her to have held out against 5 goblins for 10 whole mins.

While thinking that, I brought out the medal from my pocket and gripped it in my left hand.

"Lend me your strength, Ermenhilde."

[Roger that, my master.]

The jeering atmosphere till now completely disappeared.

While fighting, it is always serious. The opponents are just small fry but there's a difference between composure and carelessness.

I know that human lives can disappear easily just because of slight carelessness.

In my left hand, warmth started appearing. The magical energy of the source of my cheat ability, Ermenhilde, took form.

One knife. Five Daggers.

There are no decorations. It's a boorish weapon with stress on utility.

Confirming the weapons, I put the medal back inside my pocket.

Holding the knife in my left hand, I fixed the daggers on my belt.

"Really, as long as I have you, I don't really need to buy any weapons."

[Don't mistake their use, definitely.]

"I know."

I'm a [God Slayer] and you're the [God Slaying Weapon].

I won't forget that in my whole life.

As I said that, I jumped out from the shadow of the rock and threw a dagger.

Without even being able to perceive me, the dagger pierced through its head and the goblin died. Red blood stained the grasslands.

Taking out another dagger, I once again threw it. I bring down another one. That makes 2 down.

After that they finally become aware of the intruder that is me and put up their guards.

I threw another dagger but it was struck down by the long sword.

I wanted to finish them off with just daggers but.....I guess that's that.

The world isn't such an easy place.

“Ah.”

I ignored the woman as she raised a sound in relief.

3 remain. I’m at a disadvantage if we consider just the numbers.

I have confidence in my superior ability, but if I get surrounded, I could only lose then.

Changing the knife to my right hand, I held a dagger in my left.

Two sword style. But, unfortunately I’m a right hander.

“Shaa!!”

I stopped the long sword’s attack with my dagger.

With having the ability to avert the attack, my left hand went numb but I swung the knife and tore its throat away.

The sharpness of weapons created by Ermenhilde is terrific. I didn’t feel any resistance at all.

The spurt of blood soiled my clothes and struck my cheek as well. I ended up frowning due to its unpleasantness.

By the time I took care of this one, the other two of them attacked me from both sides at the same time.

I threw the dagger in my left hand towards one of them.

Since my hand was numb, let alone proper aim, even the blade was not in the front.

But still, it stopped its advance to strike down the dagger with its weapon.

And their cooperation to attack together also got disturbed.

In that instant, I faced the other one coming towards me.

It raised the hammer overhead but before it could bring it down, I cut apart the its handle.

The goblin, who was holding it with both hands, lost its balance and the hammer lost its effectiveness.

Probably it didn't expect the iron grip to be cut apart, the Goblic seemed to panic and stopped moving in front of me.

In that instant, I beheaded it.

One more remaining——-as I looked back, the remaining one had run away at full speed.

"fuu."

I breathed a sigh in relief.

I did it somehow.

I wiped away the blood that stuck my cheek and clothes.

This, will the stain even go away after I wash it?

If I need to buy a new one, it'll mean more expenses.

[Good good, it seems your skill hasn't dulled yet.]

"No way."

I was just lucky.

I don't know why but this medal always misunderstands me for someone very strong.

Please leave me alone from that.

Just because I now those 12 Godslayers doesn't mean that I'm also as strong as them.

Unlike the others, I'm not that strong.

My physical abilities are bit higher than the people of this world thanks to the World transfer compensation, but I'm still confident of losing against a first class swordsman or a magician.

Even the fight against goblins, those guys could have done it much better than me.

One-hit kill. That's how they would have done it.

If it was a magician then one magic attack from a long range.

Those kinds of guys are the [God Slayers].

"I not very good at fighting."

As I muttered that, I walked towards the woman, who was the main objective this time.

Due to the sudden developments, she was sitting in the grasslands while she raised her eyes and looked at me dumbfounded.

That action looked pretty cute.

[You're grinning again.]

"....."

I want to believe that's not true.

I hid my mouth with the sleeve of my clothes and *ahem* cleared my throat.

"I don't know why you're so fixated on subjugating monsters but if you're this reckless you'll die very easily, you know?"

Die. The woman shuddered on hearing that word.

Probably, she didn't even think about herself dying back at the guild.

It's pretty common among newbies. Also, the fact she's still alive makes her pretty lucky.

Normally, without anyone to help, she would have been tormented to death by the goblins.

I cut off the fangs of the goblins with my knife. If one were to hand it over to the guild, you can get reward for the subjugation.

Not just goblins, it's the same for every monster.

Normally one would bring back a part that can be used as material or a part that won't decay.

If its something as big as a dragon, even if you were not to subjugate it, you can get quite a lot of money from selling its scales.

Well, the reward for goblins is about 10 copper coins I think.

Since I had not accepted the request officially, it might be a little lesser though.

By the way, in case of herb gathering, even after spending the whole day, you'd earn about 5 copper coins.

As expected, killing monsters earns a lot of money but it's bad for my heart.

I don't like it.

"if you have learned something, then raise your abilities by first doing the jobs given by the guild—-'kay."

As I put the goblin fangs inside my pocket and looked back……the woman was crying.

She was sobbing really badly but tears and various fluids were falling out.

I panicked and looked away as the woman was making an expression not expected from an adult.

[You made her cry, you made her cry.]

"Are you a child?"

As I muttered in a small voice, I hit the medal inside my pocket.

I rummaged through the goblin's equipments to find something valuable till the woman stopped crying.

[…….this is basically a robbery.]

Or rather, if the opponent weren't monsters this would definitely be counted as a robbery.

"It'll earn me some money after all."

[This is a scene that really makes me doubt whether you're actually a hero or not.]

The long sword is too chipped, the hammer's grip was cut apart, so these two won't get me much.

But it'll still get me something so I still decided to take it back.

The battleaxe was still fine so it should get me quite some money. It's a good find.

The equipment was pelt and breastplates but.....but it stinks like hell so I'm wondering what to do.

Will it even be usable even if I took it back?

Even if I leave it here, the corpses will be eaten by other monsters and the equipment would end up being reused by other goblins or kobolds with intelligence.

Unn, as I was thinking, I felt a presence behind me.

As I looked back, the woman had stood up.

"Have you calmed down?"(renji)

On my question, the woman gave a nod.

It seems she's still feeling down. Well, it's pretty obvious though it can't be helped.

One actually recovers from something like that quickly would be the weirder one.

"Then, let's return to the village. I'll see you off."

Shouldering the battleaxe, I held the sword and the broken hammer in my empty hand.

I decided to leave the armour. I should be able to get quite the sum from just these weapons.

I can't ask this woman to feel such a stink either.

The weapons, and in my pocket were the 4 fangs of the goblins.

I'd be able to live luxuriously for two days with that. My footsteps became lighter as I realized that.

Although my objective was supposed to be saving the woman but I didn't feel like my objective had changed either.

[.....how deplorable.]

"It has become your favourite phrase in the past year hasn't it, those words?"

[Kuh]

"?"

As the woman looked at me with a questioning gaze as I talked to myself, I replied her that it was nothing.

I unconsciously ended up talking out loud.

I really can't help that.

I think it's normal as a human to talk back when someone talks to you.

Chapter 3 Hero and the Newbie Adventurer (3)

*

After ordering some tasty drinks at the only inn of the village, I came and sat in front of the woman at the table.

She seems to have calmed a lot from the battle against the goblins but her expression was still dark.

Well, coming so close to dying, I guess it's only natural. It'd be nice if this doesn't become a trauma for her though.

Since the atmosphere didn't allow me to talk either, we just faced each other waiting for the drinks to arrive.

It seems she was the same as she fidgeted around.

Is it weird of me to think that that action of hers looked actually cute?

Since she was still equipped with the leather breastplate, the gap in between was—- [You.....really treat every woman the same.]

An extremely fed up voice came.

Although I was the only one who could hear it, I still felt a bit down.

Well, in actuality, my heart isn't actually that weak though.

Living in this different world, even if one doesn't want to, his mind and heart will be trained naturally.

"Um, thank you very much."

As I was thinking other things, the woman in front of me gave her thanks.

As she bowed, her honey coloured hair hung down and hid her expression.

Putting her hair back with her fingers, she looked towards me with nervousness in her eyes.

Huh? She seems to be frightened of me?

[Although they were just goblins, you did kill 4 of them alone after all.]

Oh, so that's why.

Although I used a surprise attack, I ended up working too hard it seems.

I guess I overdid it.

In the guild of a rural area like this, she must not have expected that there would be such a strong adventurer.

Though, I was only lucky this time.

The fact that the daggers flew straight, that I was able to block the goblin's attack and the surprise attack had made them panic, all were lucky things due to which I was able to win so skilfully.

[After showing such a violent fight, it's only normal for an amateur to be fearing you.]

"Shaddup."

"?"(woman)

I ended up saying that out loud involuntarily again. The woman, who couldn't hear Ermenhilde, looked at me questioningly.

After all it must have looked like I was talking to myself.

In fact, the woman didn't even seem much alarmed considering the current situation. She must have nerves of steel.

From here onwards, when saving someone, I'll try to save them by helping them run away rather than fighting the monsters.

Well, I have saved people quite a few times in the past year but failed to do the aforementioned every time though.

While I was thinking such things, the landlady of the inn brought us fruit juice.

By the way, my drink was simply milk. Even though I didn't ask for it, she automatically brought the cheapest one for me.

I'm thankful that she is aware of the pitiful state of my purse.

I thanked her with my gaze and gave a thumbs up.

[……this is so pathetic.]

“Milk is good for the body. I love it.”

[Your favourite is still alcohol which isn’t really good for the body though.]

I can’t deny that.

Today my purse is warm, I think I feel good already.

“…….Um.”

“Go ahead and drink it. When you’re tired it’s good to drink sweet things.”

24 copper coins. That was my earnings for today.

Considering that I can live through one day by spending only 8 copper coins, I think I can live for 3 days without any problems now.

Thus expenses weren’t a problem for me right now.

Luxury also enriches one’s heart as well.

While thinking of such philosophical things, I wondered if I was actually correct on that point.

“Thank you, very much.”

Holding the wooden cup with both hands, she started to slowly drink.

She must not have realized herself but her body was demanding for sugar as she quickly drank it all.

She sure is drinking with an enjoying expression. While looking at her, I also began to drink my milk.

This milk that was not flavoured like the ones in modern Japan is, honestly speaking, very ordinary.

But I still drank it well. It would be ridiculous to waste some of it. That would be so wasteful.

…….but I did understand why children did not like milk now.

“Then, um,.....can I at least know your name?”

The taste of the milk was getting even worse but the atmosphere seemed to have gotten a bit lighter so I decided to try and talk to her.

Why this newbie adventurer woman was so fixated on monster subjugation quests?

I don’t really want to pry any deeper into her matters but if she has some important reason I could think of helping her a little with that.

She’s a beauty after all. I don’t really need any more of a reason to get to know women.

[The milk is getting on your beard.....Pfft.]

Oops. I wiped it with my sleeve.

Nice, Ermenhilde.

[.....Pathetic.]

Leave me alone.

“I’m called Francesca. Francesca Barton.”

“Barton.....”

[What, so she really was a noble.]

She has a family name. In this world, normal people don’t have family names.

Only nobles and families with Knight lineage are allowed to have family names in this world.

From her atmosphere, I did think that she might be a noble, but I actually didn’t expect it to be true.

It’s rare for nobles to become adventurers. There are basically nil of such cases.

There are times when a noble might become an adventurer seeking thrill and excitement but that’s usually the second or the third son of the family that cannot succeed the house.

Also, most of them would soon quit after facing the hardships of such a lifestyle.

I have been in parties (T/N: Adventurer party.) with such people and they were usually reluctant to even sleep in a tent outside.

I wondered what were they actually expecting of an adventurer.

And those second and third sons would also, in the end, open up a business and get into administration work.

They basically do not have any money problems after all. So it's only obvious to chose a peaceful method of earning money rather than living the dangerous life of an adventurer.

There are lot of things like management and administration that they would need to learn but it's still better than risking your lives I think.

Thus, it was rare for a Noble to become an adventurer. Especially for a beautiful woman like her.

After knowing that she was a noble, I got worried that she might actually be burdened by some kind of huge debt after getting cheated.

That actually sounds plausible.

In this case, she must be the daughter of the Barton household but.....I've never really heard the name before.

It's probably a lower level noble family.

"I am Renji. I've been an adventurer for three years now."

I should just give my name here.

The name Renji is definitely rare, but it's not like no one else might have it.

But my surname Yamada is definitely one of a kind. I doubt there's any other Yamada in this whole world.

Thus, I decided to only use Renji as my name so that I don't stand out.

"Three years...."

She cutely inclined her head to the side.

Well, I understand what she wants to say.

If one stays an adventurer for three years, he will only be at an intermediate level.

At such a level, it would be very surprising for someone to have easily defeated goblins like I did.

Well it's actually thanks to the World transfer compensation though. Also my cheat, Ermenhilde.

Without those, I would have really been nothing more than villager C.

"So, why is a noble trying to be an adventurer....."

And, monster subjugation, on top of that.

On being called a noble, Francesca-san's expression became gloomy.

Could it be, that she doesn't like being called and treated as a noble?

"I have some circumstances."(Francesca)

"fuun."

I gulped down the milk. It's still tastes bad.

"Are those circumstances the reason why you're so fixated on monster subjugation?"

"yes."

Well I don't really care whether she's a noble or not, it doesn't really matter to me.

Rather than that, are those circumstances such that she has to risk her life?

The actions she took today were not risking her own life but abandoning her own life.

I ended up becoming curious of these circumstances of hers.

It won't hurt just listening to her.

Also, I smelled money. She's a noble as well as a newbie adventurer. If I were to help her, I might get some rewards……or something like that.

But that'll depend on the details. I want to avoid anything dangerous.

I took another sip of the milk, and urged her to continue.

If it sounded something really dangerous……well, imight try helping her a little I think.

"Actually, there was a test at the academy….."

"……hm?"

"If I fail at that test I will have to drop out."

What, it was much lighter than what I was expecting.

But I wonder how it relates to her becoming an adventurer.

If it's a test then stick to your desk and study like crazy.

"Should I read the textbook?"

'She was anxious about the practical test and decided to practice against actual monster.'

If she had died for such a reason, her parents wouldn't have been able to even cry. They would have cried in the end though.

"Uu……I'm good at making notes but practical tests are….."(Francesca) [Wow a typical big-headed person.]

Don't say that.

I hit the medal from above my pocket. Ouch, my thigh actually hurt.

"Well, you do seem bad at physical exercise."

"uu."

She must have been sensitive about it as she moaned and looked downwards.

She actually feels like a small animal.

Also, I could see her cleavage…….well with such a rack it's only normal

that she'd be bad at physical exercise.

After understanding this, I felt that it couldn't be helped that Francesca was bad at it.

In fact what do you actually eat to get something like that?

Among my former comrades, there was a woman close to my age.

She was, well.....that. If I were to put it in words, when looking there you would get done in so nobody did so.

By the way, 'done in' here means 'to be killed'.(T/N: it could have also meant as doing it with her but unfortunately that's not the case here.) I want you to tell her what you eat normally to get something like that.

"Exercise is, well, learning to move your body properly right? You should stop trying to fight monsters for that."

As expected, I could not tell her directly that she was not suited for it.

Well, it might have been fine even if I said that though. It is true after all.

Now that I have heard her situation, I can't recommend her to subjugate monsters.

If she tries to do it even then, then I'll have no choice but to directly tell her that.

"That.....the physical skill test is actually demon subjugating itself."(Francesca) "....."

[This girl is going to fail hard.]

I thought the same thing.

Or rather, what kind of school makes its students hunt monsters.

There'll even be casualties. Isn't that bad for a school in various ways?

"What school is this?"

"It is the Magic City Academy, around three days from here by carriage."

It ended up being an extremely big school.

The Magic city was as its name suggested, the whole city was meant as a place for all sorts of magicians to come together to learn and research magic.

Similarly, there are also Tactics City, Commercial Sciences city, Steelworks city etc as well.

The Tactics city is a place where those who can't use magic gather. There they are taught the way to use swords and spears and also battle tactics. People who graduate from there usually end up as Knights or soldiers in the Royal capital. In this city there are more Dojos rather than schools. Basically it's filled with muscle headed idiots.

Most of them barely know how to read and write and can make basic calculations sometimes.

The Commercial Sciences city was, as its name suggests, a city where trade and commerce is prosperous and is also called the biggest city of the human country [Imnesia].

I think its even more lively than the Royal Capital as well.

Also, there are schools here that teach about commerce etc as well. Well it's good that a lot of money flows there, but the city also has its dark parts and I can't really say that the public order is good there.

The Steelworks City is the city of blacksmiths. After inviting elves and dwarves from the country of beastmen [Elfreim], they create magic enchanted weapons and Mithril weapons there.

The magic weapons or Mithril weapons sold all over [Imnesia] are produced and manufactured only in this city.

Its not very efficient but apparently there are problems like politics, circulation of funds and goods etc.

Every big village also have a place to learn but if one wants to learn something seriously, it's normal to go to one of these cities. Though, its usually only rich nobles or absolute geniuses who get their expenses paid

by the people of the City that actually go there.

A child of a rural village won't be able to pay the expenses and end up being expelled and returning back.

Then that means that the woman in front of me is definitely a rich noble family's young lady.

The Magic academy……that place's physical test is monster subjugation, is it?

I guess I was mistaken to think that sharing research reports was more magician-like.

"Could you not have made a party with your classmates?"

"Actually that was the plan but everyone seems to avoid me……"

"What the heck?"

[Seriously what?]

I could only sigh while fed up.

I don't know the reason but those classmates that are making this woman to do something like monster subjugation alone are definitely crazy in their heads.

Either they don't know the dangers involved or they have some hidden reason behind it.

I don't know what level of noble is she but still she's a noble family's daughter. If a problem occurred, the school will also have to take responsibility.

It sounds troublesome.

"Um, I had a request——"(Francesca)

Ah, as expected.

I knew what she was going to say next.

The problem is whether I should accept or not.

I don't really have a problem. And, if she's a noble, I should get a good

reward as well.

But the problem is why was this woman made to fight against monsters alone.

It'd be fine if its just me over thinking things but what if something happens?

I really don't want any trouble. I don't really mind teaching a noble woman what an adventurer is like.

Even I, if told that I could get closer to such a beauty, would quickly accept it.

But, I really hate trouble.

I also have my special circumstances. I really hate trouble as well as standing out too much.

But I need money. I really want it.

If it's a reward from an adventurer the, maybe gold coins—-no maybe even silver coins.....(T/N: silver>gold here) "Could you to please teach me the way of fighting?"

"yeah, sure."(renji)

While bending forward, she looked at me with sincere eyes.

Right, she was leaning forward.

As she did that, the greenery suppressed by the leather breastplate certainly swayed.

And before I realized, I had already accepted her.

[I won't get angry so tell where were you looking when you gave your answer? Just say it.]

"Your eyes don't seem to be lying so I guess.....it's fine."(renji) I averted my gaze.

It's not like I suddenly felt guilty of anything. I wasn't really scared of Ermenhilde inside my pocket either.

The scenery outside the window was completely cloudless.

.

.

.

When we returned to the guild, the bear faced adventurer was not here anymore.

Probably, he must have taken some newbies to teach them the way of hunting.

In such a rural village, young ones were precious military resource after all.

They needed to be perfectly trained from the basics so that one day they could also pass this knowledge on to the next generation.

The boy at the reception was looking this way with an amazed face.

“I’m surprised……Renji-san has brought a woman with him.”(boy) “fu—– Even I am able to do things when I want to.”(renji)

[You don’t do anything usually though.]

Shaddup.

I cursed at the medal inside my pocket, which made a tsukkomi with a fed up voice, within my mind.

But even then, that voice still sounded somewhat happy, probably because I actually did some actual work for once.

That too, a monster subjugating job that I don’t do at all no matter how much it asked me for it.

I hope that it doesn’t take this as an opportunity to start scolding me to do more jobs like this.

Well, after I get the reward for this I’ll be able to live peacefully for some time though.

“But still, Magic City eh? She sure came pretty far to search for a prey.”

I'm pretty sure that there are a lot of guilds there. It might have been troublesome to search for the required monster subjugating quest but at least the danger would have been lesser.

But even so, to have spent three days to have come to this far off rural village is quite unthinkable.

According to her, till she came from the Magic city till here, there was no request to defeat the monsters that she needed.

I guess something like that can also happen.

If a student was going to hunt, it would only be a goblin or a kobold. And he would also be escorted by a pro as well.

"Now then, what kind of monster are you looking for?"

I had been requested to teach her the way of fighting but if I don't know the target I won't be able to do that after all.

During the times when we were trying to defeat the Demon God, I had fought with most types of monsters so I am a bit aware of their characteristics.

If it's a monster whose subjugation will appear in a rural village then even I should be able to properly teach her that.

Yes, I was thinking this. With a simple request, I could a great reward.

"It's an Orc."

"Pig eh?"

[If it goes well, you'll be able to get a luxurious food as well.]

Orc.

It wasn't actually a pig but was a monster that had a nose and fangs like a pig. In the first place, there are no pigs in this world, so the word pig itself was nonexistent.

As I saw Francesca tilting her head at my weird words, I felt calmed down.

That Orc.

It's height was around 2m. Its special characteristics were its physical strength and stamina. It was pretty tough due to its large body.

It's movements were, as one would expect, dull so as long as one doesn't let down his guard and be careless, I'll be able to manage it.....probably.

I looked at Francesca.

.....Her stamina probably won't last till I kill it.

"Does your test also have a time limit to complete?"

"1 month. I have already used up around 1 week so only around 20 days are left."

"Then we have quite a lot of time."

Goblins and Kobolds appear in the grasslands but Orcs only appear in caves and forests.

Or sometimes they come to human habitations and fields for hunting.

Orcs normally eat anything. Vegetables, meat, even humans. Thus, if it appears in a village, a subjugation request is sent out quickly. And since they are easy to kill, such requests are dealt with quickly.

It's pretty strong but very dull. Its meat is sold at a high price since its really delicious.

The rewards for the request as well as the earnings from selling Orc meat. I could live for almost 10 days easily with such incomes.

Since there are no caves nearby, we'll have to head deep inside the forest or in the worst case, head to a nearby village which is close to a cave.

It's been 1 month since I settled here.

I guess it might not be too bad to move now I think. To have met Francesca must have been a good opportunity.

"Guess I should prepare to go on a journey."

"journey, is it?"

“For the time being, our objective is to search for Orcs.”

[This journey sure has a weird objective……..]

I agree.

But that’s very like us.

I lightly laughed with my partner, Ermenhilde.

And our new companion looked at me curiously.

Chapter 4 Hero and the Newbie Adventurer (4)

*

What are the important things needed on a journey?

When I came to this world, I thought it would have been easy to just walk from one village to another or one town to another. Riding a carriage as it swayed would be a great thing in this different world.

.....That was not a very happy memory.

What's important is food and provisions. That too, things like dried meat or crackers that would last long. Though they aren't very tasty.

Dried meat is pickled with salt so the taste is as you would expect. Not to mention that it is stiff. Very stiff.

I ended up yearning for the tender cooking of the modern world in just a week of staying in the different world.

The crackers are tasteless. They are only meant to fill the stomach.

You could say that I had underestimated living in a fantasy world.

Thinking about how food is available in the modern world as canned, sterilised and perfectly packed, I felt as if the humans in our world were geniuses on par with God.

We had to prepare our own food. It won't suddenly appear out of nowhere.

You could say that we were being too naïve but we really did think like that back then.

"Now then, let's go and buy the things necessary for the journey."

After talking with Miss Francesca about the above things, we decided on doing the preparations together.

Of course I had excluded the things about the different world.

That's because it seems that nobody had taught her anything related to

journeying and travelling.

Guess that's normal though. Usually, such things are taught by seniors in the guild or you learn through years of experience.

A newbie adventurer like her doesn't have any person like a senior in the guild and obviously she doesn't have any experience either.

Well in this case I'll be the senior but.....

"Even if I say that.."

I only need a few change of clothes and food for a few days. And a blanket and water, that's all.

Well since I can't use magic, I guess I'll also need a flint and some oil as well.

They also sell things like tents but since its too bulky I have never bought it since I travelled alone.

Whenever the weather worsened, I would simply rest under a rock or the shade of a tree till it cleared out. That helps in saving money after all.

But since a woman would also be travelling with me, I guess I'll need to buy that as well. As expected, even I wouldn't make a woman sleep outdoors. Not to mention, that she's a noble.

"Now that I think about it, if you're a student at the Magic Academy, then you should be able to use magic as well, right?"(renji) "Ah, yes, somewhat...."

As she said that, Miss Francesca seemed to act a little bashful.

Along with those looks, she really looks cute.

[Oi, stop grinning.]

Oops.

"Then can you create a fire?"

"Yes."

Then we don't need a flint.

If she can create a fire with magic, then we'll be fine as long as find some dry wood near the place we camp.

Magicians are really convenient during travels.

They can create fire when sleeping outside and can also create clean water as well.

Magic is really convenient. You could even call it an all-purpose thing.

The magicians in this world use magic by imagining a phenomenon within their minds.

Unlike games, chanting isn't really needed usually. But to create a fireball and to shoot a fireball are two different things. That's where the most difficult part of imagining comes. This what the great magician of this world and that almost-Chuunibyou magician said to me.

To create a fireball, all you needed to do was to imagine a fireball above your palm. Rest, you can simply depend on using you magical energy needed to create it.

But to shoot out the fireball, you had to first imagine the fireball and then also imagine its trajectory perfectly as well.

The higher the level of magic used, the more complex it is to perfectly imagine the details.

Also, the magical energy used is also important.

The magicians need to imagine a lot of things at the same time apparently.

To help this, chants are used.

By speaking the spell words, the imagination becomes deeper and more clear and distinct.

The higher the level of concentration, the more detailed the imagination is, the better and stronger the magic will be activated.

That is how the magic in this world works.

Actually, there are a lot of complicated formulas behind it as well but

my comrades were all God-slaying cheat holders after all.

They simply ignored all that and released super strong magic like it was normal.

“If you can use magic, then you should been able to take on atleast some goblins after gaining some experience I think.”

“uu.....i’m sorry.”

“Uh, no, you don’t really have to apologise there.”

Magic is really convenient and powerful.

She had said that her speciality was taking notes then not just fireball, she should be able to use ice blade or wind blade as well. Its power is incomparable to the strike of a normal sword.

The fireball could burn their bodies, ice blade could pierce through skin and leather armour easily. And the wind blade could slash at the opponent without being visible.

But there are times when a magician becomes useless in an actual battle.

That’s because when clashing swords with an enemy in front them, they don’t have the composure to think about anything else.

When someone is coming at you to take away your life, you can’t really think of an image of a fireball inside your head after all.

That’s why it is normal for rushing towards magicians to enter into close combat against magicians.

Well, there are first class magicians that can keep on using magic even when in close combat as well though.

But it’d be too harsh too expect that from a newbie adventurer like her.

“All that’s left is the weapon, eh?”

She had a new short sword but I had nothing.

I did have the God-slaying cheat Ermenhilde but that’s not something I can calmly show off to others.

The title of ‘Hero’ was too troublesome which is why I had gone off on a journey alone. I have no intention to tell that I’m a hero now.

As I thought about what to buy, I sighed.

If it was going to turn out like this, I shouldn’t have sold that worn-out sword that I got from those goblins.

While I sent Miss Francesca to go buy some clothes and underwear for herself, I went around to choose a weapon for myself.

[This is going to hurt your purse hard.]

Seriously.

I looked towards the brand new long sword and battle axe leaning against the wall.

Each and every one of them was costly. At an average, each costed about dozens of copper coins. The even costlier ones costed few gold coins.

The cheapest one was an iron knife. The cost was 8 copper coins.

Rather than a knife for fighting, it was more like a tool for housework.

I decided to buy that one in a single glance.

Honestly speaking, I didn’t really need any weapons from such shops. After all I already have a partner weapon to which I could entrust my life with, Ermenhilde.

But I was not going say that out loud.

If I did, this medal of mine would start getting cocky after all.

I had ended up saying something like that many a times back then.....my comrades had started to become suspicious of me.

I had been shouted at that I was raising a death flag before our fight with the Demon God.

I think I had been influenced by my comrades too much.

How nostalgic, really. I wonder if those guys are still doing well?

As I gave another sigh, and picked up one of those knives.

Suddenly, my gaze went towards the sword that I had sold after coming to this village.

It was a famous sword given to me by the king of [Imnesia].

Its blade was made of mithril and had been forged by a dwarf. The decorations had been done by an elf and been granted the divine protection of the spirits of the earth and forests.

On the amethyst embedded on the handle, the emblem of [Imnesia] would appear when you pour magical energy inside it. There were only 13 of these swords in this world.

Such a famous sword would be priceless.

It was not something that could be sold at its true cost in such a rural village.

Probably, it would be sold at a proper cost when the peddler comes to the village next time.

If they knew that I had sold such a famous sword in such a rural village, I would probably be imprisoned for lese majeste.

This might be a little late but I ended up sweating a little when I thought that.

“It’s an amazing sword……you can tell just by looking that it’s a top class item.”

“I know.”

Francesca called towards me as she saw that sword.

She must have bought the clothing I had told her to, she was holding a luggage wrapped in cloth with her.

In this world, paper was very valuable. The have a method to make paper but it is not very stable.

Since there are no machines and it is made through hand, the production can’t keep up.

That's why, during shopping if someone buys a small thing, he's given that as it is. And if the thing bought is larger, it is given by wrapping it a neat piece of cloth.

"It's a rare sword. Any swordsman would want that."(renji)

"It seems to have been made from mithril, must be the work of a dwarf.....I can also sense magic. I wonder if it was refined by an elf?"(fran) "Well..... I haven't really heard of a method used by elves that could refine Mithril."

I bragged a little.

"If no price has been set that means that they must not want to sell it."

After all it was made by an elf and a dwarf together who are famous for always being on bad terms.

If they knew the story behind its creation, there was no way a price could be set for it.

I smiled wryly as Miss Francesca talked about it with gleaming eyes.

She must be pretty confident about her knowledge if she could talk about mithril and other such materials.

—-I guess it was true that she was good at taking notes at class.

I guess I should try talking to her about such topics later.

While thinking about things as if they were unrelated to me, I brought the iron knife to the counter.

[What, do you still have some attachments with that sword?]

"Well, it's the same for me whether it's a mithril sword or an iron knife."(renji) "I don't think that's true. Mithril is very strong against ghosts and undead. To put it at the same level of iron is...."(fran) Francesca reacted to the words I spoke to Ermenhilde.

Within my pocket, Ermenhilde started snickering towards this mismatched conversation.

"That's true. I guess its not comparable with iron."(renji) But both of

them were simple weapon. They could never replace my partner Ermenhilde.

I put the iron knife along with the tent and other things on the counter and brought out 20 copper coins.

This really is going to hurt my purse.

The shopkeeper who knew of my financial condition, gave a wry smile and gave me some extra dried meat for free.

[I wonder what kind of Hero takes donations from villagers.]

“Thank you very much.”

I heard a somewhat philosophical voice coming from inside my pocket.

Why does it want me to be a hero so much? I really don’t want to have a title like a Hero.

As I sighed, the shopkeeper misunderstood it as getting down due to my huge expenses and further added some free crackers as well.

My eyes were now already nailed on the coins being taken by the shopkeeper rather than on the mithril sword.

I felt like I heard a sigh that only I could hear but I ignored it.

For a human to keep on living, money is more important than weapons.

While carrying quite a bit of luggage under my arms, I gave another sigh.

I really should have worked a bit harder to raise money I think.

.

.

.

As I left the store, we first moved towards the inn to drop our luggage. As expected, it would be troublesome to carry it all the time with me. And then we decided to take a break there as well.

I didn’t ask for milk but asked for only water that was free. Any more

expenses would have an effect on my meal tonight.

I feel sorry for Miss Francesca but I had to ask her to pay for her own expenses.

[.....Undependable, as usual.]

Shaddup.

While being disappointed from that voice that seemed to be enjoying this, I drank water.

It's lukewarm.

I guess it might be too much to demand for cold water from a inn of a rural village.

In the royal capital or any other slightly big towns, a magician would make the ice but there's no way a magician would live in a village like this.

Well, there's one in front of me but she's not a worker of the inn.

"Tomorrow, we'll leave the village."(renji)

"Yes."(fran)

That was the last confirmation.

I had explained everything else before we went shopping.

After leaving this village, we'll walk towards the neighbouring village.

We won't use a carriage to increase her physical endurance and stamina as well as to help her gain experience in travelling.

After hunting down the Orc she might go back to her school but for now she's an adventurer.

Then, during this time, I'm thinking of training her like a normal adventurer as well.

That should increase my reward and the person herself agrees with it.

"Then I'll be troubling you from here onwards."(fran)

Saying that, she bowed her head.

I would in fact be troubled if we were to move by carriages so I'm actually thankful.

Obviously, by trouble I mean financial ones.

Carriages are only used by people who have surplus money. Also those who want to keep themselves perfectly safe during the journey.

Merchants and dealers are usually the ones who use them. They put up escort missions in the guild quite a lot as well so there are times when I had also escorted them.

They are pretty rich and also prepare meals during the trip so it's not really bad.

Well, sometimes there are also those merchants who act too-familiar and those who deal with slaves as well though.

"Don't worry. You lack stamina so it's perfect for it."(renji) "uu."

I ended up giving a wry smile as she was at a loss for words.

In the first place, it's rare for a student to go on a journey. Since they're always studying while sitting on their desks, its normal that they don't have any stamina.

While thinking of such things, I looked outside from the window.

I saw a boy who looked like an orphan.

Sitting on the road, he seemed to be in a daze waiting for someone to give him money or food.

There are a lot of orphans in this world.

Before the Demon God had been defeated, the monsters had been attacking the villages, burning houses and killing the people constantly.

Due to that, even after a year has passed, there are still a lot of orphans like that.

They have orphanages set up as well, but the number isn't sufficient enough.

Quite a lot of my comrades seem to be working to change the situation

but it still hasn't been planned out perfectly yet it seems.

In the first place, the concept of welfare programmes itself didn't exist here, there's no way they could make visible changes in just one year.

Even if it's one of the heroes that saved the world that is calling for it.

The ones who have the money are the nobles. To make them understand, we aren't eloquent enough.

Even the God slaying cheat holding heroes are also humans in that case.

Well, there is a guy who's making a lot of money by using such a cheat and trying to change the world as well though.

For example chess, or shogi.

This world, that had forgotten ways to enjoy due to the threat of monsters, have been completely immersed in this game.

As a means for amusement, one set of each game is being sold for money.

I think it's pretty well done.

I wonder if I lived more admirably, will my life be a bit more easier?

I think that might be true.

I wonder if I'm just incapable of such things or is it just because of everyone else's cheat skill.

Well, it's probably the former I think.

While thinking that, I was given a gold coin.

"It's the advance for the reward."(fran)

"n, thanks."(renji)

One gold coin. It basically equals a 100 copper coins. By the way, 100 gold coins = 1 silver coin.

I don't think I remember even seeing a silver coin in the past one year. In the first place, nobody needs that big of an amount to live on normally

everyday.

I think it's been a long time since I saw a gold coin as well.

By the way, I'm aware that there are quite a lot of gold coins stuffed inside her purse.

I just ended up seeing it accidently while we were shopping that's all. I didn't have any ill intentions at all.

I think it can't be helped that I ended up seeing that but as expected of a noble.

She's so careless and defenceless, I feel like she'll get robbed sooner or later.

Also, it might be a bit late to say this but, I think it would have been much better if I had gotten this before we started shopping.

I would have been able to make a bit more better preparations for the journey.

Well, we'll still need to live on dried meat though.

I really want to somehow change that fact.

I have been thinking about it all the time after coming to this world but someone like me who can't even cook can't really do anything about it.

[Haah.]

I wonder if that sigh was towards the defenceless Francesca or towards the unworthy actions of the hero that was looking inside other people's purses. Or maybe it's uselessly thinking about something stupid.

.....in any case, it must be something related to me.

"From tomorrow we're going on a walking journey. Let's take a proper rest today."(renji) "Yes. Please take care of me from here onwards, Renji-san."(fran) As she asked with such a wide smile, even I started feeling happy about this.

This must also be some kind of talent.

[You're making an undisciplined face again, how deplorable.]

“All men are like that.”(renji)

We’re weak towards smiles made by beauties. It really can’t be helped.

“What are you going to do about lodging?”(renji)

“I have rented a room at this inn as well.”(fran)

As she said that, I looked towards the landlady as she gave a smile.

Well, she’s also running the inn here as well. It must be pretty convenient.

“.....I’m not really a morning person you see.....”(fran)

Thought so.

It really is convenient.

It seems this is gonna be a fun journey.

[Your face, face.]

Oh shaddup.

Chapter 5 Hero's Journey

*

Yamada Renji is a God-Slayer. But, he thinks he is not a hero. Only he thinks that though.

Receiving the blessings of the goddess, and getting the god-slaying cheat power, he is one of the 13 people who saved the world.

They refer to their powers as a ‘cheat’ but for the people of this world, it is the power of the gift granted to them by the goddess.

The brave boy received the power to [remain undefeated]. As long as he himself did not accept his own loss, he would attain the power to overturn any situation. Whether it be a game, quarrel, war, or a battle to the death. Even if the opponent was someone many levels above him, as long as his will didn’t accept defeat, the world itself would support him. This super ability was that boy’s cheat.

The girl known as the Grand Magus received [God-like magical power]. That magical energy could bring down lightning, overturn the earth and crush everything in her surroundings. A power that could make a natural disaster into a reality through imagination; her power could send countless monsters to oblivion. Even if the opponent was a dragon or a giant, her magic could destroy them as well. Truly, her magic was God-like.

Another girl wished for a power to make contracts with the monsters. There was a limit that only 3 monsters would follow her commands but controlling a flying dragon, an immortal knight and a prank loving fairy, her presence was befitting of that of a god-slaying hero.

Another girl was a [Saint] that could heal any and all injuries.

One was a chunnibyo wannabe magician that possessed the Evil Eye in his left eye that could see future.

One was the world’s greatest cook.

Etc.

They truly were very unique comrades.

The journey was painful and difficult.

But, it was still fun as well.

There were a lot of heart breaking memories but not all the memories were like that.

The hero Yamada Renji had also wished for a cheat. To defeat the Demon God, to return back to their world, to live.

And what he had received was the talking medal that was a Godslaying weapon and a slightly enhanced physical ability.

Why was it a talking medal? Why had the goddess granted a will to a weapon?

The goddess [Astraera].

A weapon did not require a will of its own. Isn't that something obvious?

If a weapon had a will——it's obvious that you'll get attached to it.

Taking, laughing together, struggling together, supporting each other, sharing our pains and joys, travelling together and saving each other.

That's why, the hero Yamada Renji thought of finding a different lifestyle for his partner Ermenhilde other than that of living as a weapon. He ended up thinking about such things.

The 'weapon' Ermenhilde changed to his 'partner' Ermenhilde. But still, the Godslaying weapon tried to remain as the 'weapon' Ermenhhilde.

Just how much was it distressed by that, Yamada Renji didn't know.

He didn't know how much this choice had hurt the 'weapon' Ermenhilde and had cornered it.

And he didn't realize how much was it all according to that ill-natured woman, goddess Astraera's plans.

But the end conclusion was even beyond the goddess' expectations.

The 'weapon' Ermenhilde chose him, the hero, and went on a journey.

.

.

.

As I opened my eyes, it was already morning.

[.....This is rare. You woke up without my help for once.]

"You're supposed to greet first. Good Morning Ermenhilde."

yawn As I yawned, a sigh came from beside me.

[Those words, I return back to you.]

"Well, that's true as well."

Kakaka, it laughed. [T/N: Shinobu from monogatari series laughs like this as well if you're wondering.]

I'm not really the type to greet someone properly either after all.

Especially when I wake up after drinking a lot the last night.

"I saw a nostalgic dream."

[Did you dream of the other world again?]

As I told about my dream while I changed my clothes, Ermenhilde asked thus.

After coming to this world, we used to dream about our original world a lot.

We had been enjoying this new world, but somewhere deep inside, everyone missed their own world.

In the first place, you don't get to experience something like being summoned to a different world a lot of times after all.

Even after receiving my partner Ermenhilde, I dreamt a lot about my original world.

Though, it was just a mere dream.

After waking up, I'll be back to this different world.

After about half a year had passed, I stopped dreaming about that world as well.

The younger ones in our group saw them for almost a year though. Sometimes they even cried in their sleep.

I was an adult. I couldn't cry when young ones were crying in front of me after all.

Anyway, leaving that aside.

"It was bit more nostalgic than that."

Somehow, I was unable to tell Ermenhilde that I had dreamt about it.

The Goddess [Astraera].

She's the existence that gave us our cheat powers and the goddess that is worshipped by the humans.

The beastmen worshipped a god known as the Spirit God and the demons worshipped the Demon God.

She was one of the three pillars that is said to have created the world.

I have met her but I don't know how she looks like actually.

For some reason, my memories of that part seem to be hazy. I can't remember it back.

But I expect that she was extremely beautiful considering that she was a goddess.

I really want to talk with her once.

[So?]

"That's it."

[.....I see.]

While hearing Ermenhilde's usual fed up voice, I washed my face and shaved my beard.

Some parts are not shaved properly. Yup, once again I'm perfectly looking like a Villager C.

"Perfect."

[You still haven't shaved properly.]

"Isn't that just fine?"

While talking about such stupid things, I put Ermenhilde back inside my pocket.

I put on the worn out overcoat, fixed my knife on my belt and carried the luggage.

.....I fell like I look more like a merchant than an adventurer but, well whatever.

Next time, maybe I should buy some cheap armour as well. It's more adventurer-like.

It might be a bit too dangerous to face off against an Orc in just a tunic after all.

Well it'll be fine as long as I don't get hit.

.

.

.

After meeting up with Miss Francesca, we left the village after finishing our breakfast.

By the time I finished my partings with the Landlady and the guys from the guild, the sun had already reached high in the sky.

I'm feeling slightly excited as well.

As expected, an adventure feels great no matter how old you are.

Even if it was in a different world with who knows what unknown dangers. No, maybe that's why I'm a bit more excited than normal.

The distance wasn't very large but it wasn't exactly small either.

It'll take about a day to go to the neighbouring village but since I had a newbie with us as well, it might take slightly longer.

Even then we still have quite a lot of surplus time though.

"Should I carry some luggage for you?"

"No, I'll be fine."

I had a bit more luggage than Miss Francesca. As expected, the tent made the luggage bulkier. If I were to leave that, my luggage was definitely less than hers.

It seems that fact that women paid special mind to what and how much they needed to wear was the same even in this world.

Men are usually fine as long as they have clothes for just a few days.

"Haaa……this'll be the first time I'll be travelling on foot."

It seems she was also slightly excited considering how her voice sounded to me.

As I smiled wryly towards her, she hung her head embarrassed.

"Well, it'll be a good experience for you."(renji)

To connect villages to each other, a highway made of white stones had been made.

It was an absolutely normal white stone, but for some reason it emphasized that this was 'the path for humans' and thus monsters tended not to attack here.

It was not a certain fact but it was much safer than not walking on the highway.

To monsters, humans were simply prey but for humans, monsters were meant to be immediately subjugated.

It'll be a battle to death every time these two existences would meet each other.

If they don't want to risk their lives, the monsters will not come near the 'path for humans'. As long as they aren't cornered too far though.

“Well, we’ll be safe more or less as long as we are on the highway so let’s take it easy.”(renji) “Yes.”(fran)

We walked down the highway together.

Since I was the taller one, her hair gently danced near my face occasionally.

I smelled something really nice.

There’s no way the bath in a rural village would have something like a shampoo or soap, so this must be the sweet smell unique to only women. As my thoughts started to tilt towards the slightly perverted side, [....Tch.]

It was not a voice of warning or objection but the sound of clicking tongue.

I took one step away from Miss Francesca silently.

It was not like I would really do something but somehow I started feeling guilty.

So I shifted my consciousness from the beauty Miss Francesca towards the highway.

Not a single stone was too round or sharp. Though not exactly perfect, the highway had been built very neatly and uniformly.

Even carriages and horses could easily travel on this.

Thus, transportation was much smoother and transactions between villages would be better.

It was easy to walk for long times on this as well.

After walking for some while, I realized that miss Francesca was starting to fall back a little.

As I looked back, her breathing had already become disordered.

She was also sweating as her long pretty hair was sticking to her forehead. As I looked above, the sun was shining brightly overhead.

This world also has proper 4 seasons. 1 year was of 360 days. There were 9 months, every month consisting of 40 days.

It was slightly different from our original world but the difference wasn't that big.

They were called simply like the [1st month], [3rd month] etc and were very easy to remember as well.

Currently, it was the [6th month]. In terms of Japan, it would be the time where summer had ended and autumn had begun.

The nights were slightly cold but during the day, it was still hot. It was such a season.

While thinking of such things, I waited for Francesca to catch up to me.

[This is gonna be hard going.]

"We were the same when we came to this world as well, I think."

[That's also true I guess.]

I brought Ermenhilde out who was snickering inside my pocket.

I flicked it with my thumb. The god slaying weapon medal rotated in mid air as it shined from the sunlight.

While wasting time like that, I waited for the newbie adventurer Miss Francesca.

I really like carefree journeys like this.

It makes me realize that I'm still in a different world.

When I'm enjoying the journey I really think about it from my heart.

.

.

.

The campfire made snapping sounds as it flickered.

After walking this whole day, I understood one thing.

"uu....."

Miss Francesca's stamina was worse than I thought.

She was currently massaging her legs after rolling up her trousers that she had bought for travelling use.

She had also removed her breastplate as well.

Thus, her figure as she leaned forward to massage her legs was a pretty tempting sight for any man.

Every time she massaged her legs, they would move and sway and then sway again.

Honestly, its not something she should do with a man in front of her.

Though, it is a great perquisite for me.

Other than her bountiful chest, her slender yet fleshy legs were also very favourable to watch.

[Oi, hentai.]

Those words are definitely not something you should say to your partner you know.

As my face cramped due to the violence hidden in those words, I shifted my gaze from her legs towards the forest.

“We will arrive to the next village by tomorrow.”

While adding some dried branches to the fire, I spoke.

The original plan was to reach there by tomorrow early morning but considering our pace today, it’ll be around afternoon by the time we reach there.

But it’s not like we’re really in a hurry either so I guess it won’t hurt to take this leisurely.

I can say it from my experience that nothing good comes out of making too much haste.

“Sorry. I was being too slow....”(fran)

“Don’t worry about it. Everyone’s like that at first.”

Even we had almost felt like dying just from muscular pain and fatigue.

It's something common with every new adventurer.

I'm really envious of those heroes whose HP won't fall no matter how much they walked. Not to mention they get fully restored just by staying a night at an inn.

"Even Renji-san was like this?"(fran)

"I was about to die from getting cramps and muscular pains."

On Miss Francesca's question, I said the same thing I was thinking just now instantly.

It's actually really dangerous to get muscular pains during a journey.

If one were to get attacked by monsters, he wouldn't be able to fight at his max strength.

To struggle for your life as you fight, I don't even want to think about it.

Muscular pains are really dangerous. Your feet would get cramped if you try too hard as well.

"Is this your first time sleeping outside.....I guess not."

She did say she had been travelling on a carriage.

There would be times when you have to rest in the middle of the road even when travelling with carriages. In such cases, one would either sleep inside the carriage itself, or put up some tents separately.

Considering her, I think she must have slept inside the carriage.

While thinking such things, I stood up.

"We'll be walking tomorrow as well so do your best to relieve your fatigue."

Basically, continue with your massage.

Well, I should at least set up the tent and stuff in the time being.

I wouldn't mind massaging her either but, in that case, I'm perfectly aware of what would happen to my partner Ermenhilde's affection points.

In the first place, I am suspicious whether any affection points actually

exist though.

[I think we were supposed to train her in fighting monsters as well though?]

“If we were lucky to actually meet some, then yes.”

Bringing out the tent from inside the luggage, I started the preparations.

Since I’ll be keeping watch during the night, it was a small tent for one person use.

Well, just having a roof above you when sleeping outside gives a great amount of peace.

Though, I have already become bold enough to not really care about such things anymore.

In fact, when I had just come to this world, I wasn’t able to sleep even with a tent though.

I really was so sensitive and delicate back then. In many ways.

Let’s just say that I have matured up. Yup.

Chapter 6 The God Slayer and Orc (1)

*

By the time we reached the next village, the sun had already begun to set. I think we took even more time than I had originally thought.

By the original plan, we were supposed to reach here by today morning but it's almost night already.

Miss Francesca beside me looked towards me with an apologetic face.

She isn't saying anything probably because she knows it was her fault that we're late. She might be blaming herself more than normal actually.

Even though we men would be unable to say anything if she just looked at me with sad upturned eyes.

Well, I wasn't really going to scold her in the first place.

While thinking such things, I looked towards the village.

The population is probably only 50 people. There are around 10 wooden houses that can be seen.

Since the sun was setting, the men seemed to be returning back from the fields and were glancing towards us travellers.

It sure looks like a calm and peaceful village. It really has an atmosphere that calms you down.

As we moved towards the inn, we asked for two rooms. The receptionist asked to confirm whether I really wanted 2 rooms but I decided to ignore that.

"Please prepare two rooms and meals for tonight and tomorrow morning as well."(renji) Saying that, I placed one gold coin on the counter.

He seemed surprised since a rural village inn like this one might not see gold coins too often but he soon brought out the copper coin change.

Normally I would negotiate here but since Miss Francesca is also here now, I'm wondering what to do.

Thinking for a moment, I lost the chance to negotiate in that moment.

[That's because you try to act cool in front of women. If you are going to sigh in grief now, it would have been better to have just bargained as usual.]

As you say.

I gave a sigh and the innkeeper also gave a wry smile towards me.

Well, considering that he opened an inn in such a remote village, he'll try to earn as much as possible in such situations.

I decided to give up and hope for good food.

'This is why you're always out of money.' I felt I heard a voice like that from somewhere.

For the time being, let's just smack that medal inside my pocket a bit.

"We'll rest the whole day tomorrow so be sure to rest properly."(renji) "……is that fine?"(fran)

Unlike before, she looked at me with upturned eyes and a happy expression and my cheeks loosened a bit. If I had a daughter, it'll probably be like this.

[You sound like a deviant.]

Did you not have anything better to say?

I'll really get hurt you know?

As my cheeks cramped, she looked towards me while raising her head confused.

"n, yeah, with those legs, your pace would fall after all."(Renji) "Sorry."(fran)

"No need to apologise. In fact, I think it's amazing that you didn't say you want to return."(renji) .

.

This inn had two floors. The first floor was the diner and the second floor had the private rooms.

There were no things like keys and the rooms had an internal lock only so we needed to take care of our own valuables.

Well magicians had it easy since they could conveniently imagine a key and a lock.

“Umm.”(fran)

While I was thinking such things and was about to go and leave the luggage on the second floor, I was called for.

“Thank you very much.”(fran)

“Like I said, no need to worry. Journey’s are meant to be enjoyed.”(renji) At least for me, journeys are such things.

Without any objective, roaming around this world leisurely, it broadened my perspective.

In that sense, I’m lucky that I met this girl who gave me a temporary objective for a journey.

Not to mention that I’ll get a reward for completing that objective as well.

The request was the subjugation of an Orc. Considering our pace, there’s still a long way to go.

We have a lot of time, and there’s no need to hurry either. I, for once, am really thinking of fully enjoy this journey.

Bringing out the medal Ermenhilde from my pocket, I flicked it with my finger.

With a dry sound, it twirled and rotated and I caught it with my right hand.

“I like going on journeys. That’s why, I am in fact thankful towards Miss Francesca for coming to me with this request.”(renji) [For someone who

likes journeying, I feel that you were lazing around in that village for way too long though.]

I really like journeying but I also like Sake and lazing around as well.

While giving such an excuse within my mind, I began climbing the stairs.

We had slept outside for only one night but as expected, one doesn't recover as much while sleeping outside.

After visiting the bar later, I should quickly go to sleep I think.

"Well, Miss Francesca should go by her own pace. I'll match myself according to that."(renji) "……Yes."(fran)

Maybe she was thinking of something, her response was a little late.

But, if she had something to say she'd probably do so. Thinking that, I headed towards the room.

She doesn't complain, doesn't act on her own, and listens to what I say.

Frankly, there's nothing more I need in a companion.

After gaining some experience in killing monsters, she should be able to become a good adventurer.

Since she's a student of the Magic Academy, she'd probably become a scholar or something like that in the future though.

But that's not something I need to care about.

To help her achieve the objective of successfully killing a monster. That's my objective.

.

.

.

The village's bar was one size smaller than the bar in the previous village.

Well, this village barely has any travellers. I should be glad that they

have a bar at all.

While thinking such things, I sat by the counter.

There were a few men inside the bar.

The gazes of the bartender and the men turned towards me.

Outsiders must be really rare here. While ignoring the gazes, I put three copper coins on the counter.

Normally, I should have first gone to the guild to confirm the request but since we're resting tomorrow, might as well leave that for tomorrow as well.

[That doesn't mean that the first place you have to come is the bar you know?……]

I ended up giving a wry smile on the voice of my partner Ermenhilde.

It's the same as always, it can't be helped. Just give up.

"Give me something light."(renji)

Without looking at the menu, I randomly ordered.

Normally I can drink all, whether it be wine, ale or whisky so I'm good with almost everything.

……though I become unable to even move the next day if I drink a too strong one in high quantity.

Well, alcohol worth 3 copper coins won't be enough to get me that drunk I think.

Sometimes, the bartender would bring out a strong one intentionally to harass me but, that also feels nice in its own way.

It's what you could call the true pleasures of journeying.

"Are you a traveller?"

The bartender, who brought out my alcohol in a wooden cup, asked me so.

As a snack, he also brought out some fresh vegetables and some kind of

grilled meat together with the drinks.

Probably its orc meat or some other one from the fields.

Orc meat can be obtained cheaply in the market. It is high in nutritional value so unlike goblin meat, orc meat can be turned into money.

The elementary and intermediate level adventurers hunt them in groups so there's no lack of such meat in the market.

With just some slight seasoning, it's delicious to be eaten after grilled.

Some people tend to not eat it saying that its monster meat but I don't really mind that.

I did mind it long back ago though.

.....Humans will always grow. If one were to be so picky in such things, he won't be able to go on journeys.

While thinking about Orc meat, I took the plate which had the salad and the meat.

I did have dinner with Miss Francesca but alcohol needs snacks to go along with it. Yup. (T/N: True Dat XD) Miss Francesca was now already asleep back at the inn, probably because she was too tired.

Tomorrow she'll be having muscular pains, definitely. It should heal by the day after tomorrow.

"Yeah, we came today. We'll leave by the day after tomorrow."(renji) Answering that to the bartender, I took the cup.

By the smell, I think its Apple Ale.

It really has a nice smell. It seems coming to this village was a good decision.

As I took one sip, the perfect level of bitterness and a refreshing smell spread inside my mouth.

"Are you specialised in killing monsters?"(bartender)

"Does it look that way?"(Renji)

I answered his question with another question.

The bartender's expression became sharp for a second as if assessing me, then quickly turned to a gentle smile.

"Not at all."(bartender)

"You have good eyes."(renji)

I shrugged my shoulders.

It's not that I can't fight even weak monsters but I can brag that I'm good at staying out of too much trouble at least.

Well, I doubt there'd be any problematic monsters near such a rural village anyway.

[No no, you're supposed to deny his assessment there.....]

I refuse. Don't want any unnecessary trouble.

I don't want to deal with any danger either.

Well, even though I say that, I am still going to subjugate an Orc. Even I think that I'm being painfully contradictory.

While listening to Ermenhilde's sad voice, I took another sip of the apple ale.

"Did something happen?"(renji)

"Nowadays, Orcs seem to be gathering inside the nearby forest it seems."(bartender) "……fuun."

It seems, our journey might end sooner than I expected.

Thinking that, I drained my apple ale.

"Tell me more, in detail."(renji)

Saying that, I gave him the cup.

"Recently, Orcs seem to have settled down in the forest. And have been damaging the fields as well."

"Well, does sound like what an Orc would do."

As he refilled my Ale, I answered to the bartender's words.

An Orcs eating habits are famous and the first thing that comes under damage is the fields of a village.

If the Orcs were met with resistance there, they'd go back to their dwellings and live inside the forests only but I doubt such a village would have any warrior that could face an Orc in battle.

And it doesn't look like many Adventurers stop by here.

Probably only some travellers and peddlers would occasionally make a stop here.

Even if they send a damage report to the capital, god knows how long it'll take for a knight squad to arrive here.

Although helping and aiding even such rural villages was also a part of the job of the knight squads but it usually takes months before they'd be able to move out here.

The number of knights isn't very big either and not to mention there is a lack of funds.

To do anything, it costs money. It's one thing that was same in our previous world as well.

Though there are knights who move even without money but they usually end up hated by their superiors even if they get the love of the citizens.

Basically, there's still a long time before knights begin to move.

[Our luck is being surprisingly good for some reason.]

"It's because we act as good people every day."(renji)

Taking the cup from him, I gulped down half at once.

"How much can you pay?"(renji)

"You don't really seem very strong to take a job like this. By looks at least."(bartender) Oh shaddup.

[That's why I said to shave properly.]

Is it just me or are your complaints really getting more and more like as if you're my mother?

I really want to think that I'm just imagining this.

"I have a magician comrade."(renji)

"That young girl is a magician?"

The bartender's face became a bit surprised.

As expected of a small village, the info about us soon travels fast to everyone.

It seems they already know that I and Miss Francesca are working in a party.

Well, it's not really surprising though.

Villagers in a rural village are all friendly with each other. Info like this gets spread around really fast.

"She's a student at the Magic Academy. She's apparently top of her class."(renji) "Hou, that's pretty amazing."

It seems they he knew about the magic academy so he seems to realize that the top of the class is a trustable title.

Of course, it's a complete lie though.

I think it's fine to lie that much. Probably. It might even turn out to be true.

[You really get carried away with the flow and lie very normally sometimes, you know.....]

"So, how about it? Did that increase your trust in us?"(renji) Ignoring those words, I talked with the bartender.

I told myself inside my heart that it was a necessary lie to gain more info.

Adults really are too dirty.

"I guess so. It's not like we'd lose anything either so I might as well

make a request."(bartender) "That really is cruel way of putting it."(renji)

As I laughed, another Apple ale was prepared for me.

Since he gave it to me even though I didn't ask for it, it seems it's his treat to me.

"There seem to be three Orcs inside the forest."(bartender) "3 eh?"(renji)

That's quite a lot, I thought so inside my mind.

Well, since they are very slow, there are many ways to deal with them.

We can separate them, or burn them with Miss Francesca's magic from long range as well.

Even if we mess up, we could quickly run away and try again later as well.

I thought up various plans inside my head.

"Also, one of them is excessively strong. The young ones of the village were unable to even touch it."(bartender) "Strong?"(renji)

"Yeah, it's a black Orc apparently."

Black?

I thought of the High Orcs but they aren't the type that appear in a place like this.

They usually live only on the continent of demons.

They don't live on the Imnesia continent. In the first place, a monster like that would have obliterated a village like this in the very first attack.

But then, what else could it be?

A black Orc. Is it a new mutated species? Or is it simply a normal Orc that just happened to be black in colour?

"Did you think of something?"(bartender)

"Now then, for the time being, I'm considering whether to take up the request or not."(renji) If it's a simple Orc then there's no problem.

Even with three of them, worst case scenario, we'll simply have to run away.

I am perfectly aware of its slow speed.

But, that black Orc.

It's bothering me a bit.

"For the time being, we'll go and check up on the forest the day after tomorrow. We'll decide after that whether to accept the request or not."(renji) "Yes, that would be fine."

Although he talked but it didn't seem like he was expecting much of us.

But that's pretty normal. After all we're just adventurers passing through. It'd be weird if they were expecting too much of us.

And not to mention, that I look no better than a normal villager.

He wouldn't think that I could take on a strong Orc.

I'm just a humble God Slaying traveller from a different world after all.

[Here you're supposed to use me, the god slaying weapon, upfront and deal with it—]

"Well, I'll work just hard enough to not die."(renji)

In the first place, it bothers me that the village is still safe even though such a strong Orc is living nearby.

If it really was that strong, rather than attack just the fields, it could have simply attacked the village directly and taken whatever it wanted.

Although I want to avoid fighting an unknown enemy, since our objective is also to defeat Orcs, I'll have to look for them.

Since those Orcs are attacking the village means that I can also expect a reward as well.

Combining it with the reward I'll get from Miss Francesca, I should be able to earn quite a sum this time.

With that much, I won't have to be worried about my travel expenses

for some time as well.

After all's said and done, travelling around does require money as well.

Since I had been lazing around for the whole past month, I'm in need of money all the more.

Also, if I don't get a bit serious now, I'll probably be scolded by my partner, Ermenhilde as well.

[fumu—-it seems like I'll finally have an opponent worth fighting against.]

The God slaying weapon, Ermenhilde said that with a delighted voice.

But, I'll be using only the iron knife though.

.....It really sounds too impossible, I really think so.

Well, I could even try and put some traps in the forest.

For that, I'll have to decide while scouting the forest.

"We'll run away if we feel like we can't win so don't resent us for that, alright?"(renji) "Don't worry. The reward will be given only if you succeed after all."(bartender) "Well that's good to hear."(renji)

That means, we'll have to kill those Orcs if we want any kind of reward.

And if we are unable to, we get absolutely nothing.

Since it was pretty understandable, I laughed a bit.

"Then, one more drink to at least congratulate us in advance."(renji) As I said that, the bartender gave a wry smile as he filled my cup again.

He's a good guy, I think.

[You are, as usual.....I don't care even if you become late tomorrow, alright?]

"Tomorrow's a rest day, I can drink as much as I want."(renji) As I said that, my wodden cup was filled once again.

As I looked at that, my cheeks slackened.

This really is one of the many pleasures of travelling around, I think.

I can get to taste the delicious things of different villages.

While eating the Orc meat and salad, I drank the Ale. Such luxury.

[.....haa, how deplorable. You should moderate your eating habits really—-]

While hearing the usual catch phrase of my partner Ermenhilde, I drank my alcohol.

The journey with Miss Francesca might end pretty quickly. I'll feel a bit lonely then.

I'll have to separate from that healing chest of hers as well.

While thinking of things that would get me yelled at by Ermenhilde, I stayed late in the night.

Interlude – The Girl's Day (1)

*

Francesca Barton is a noble.

She had two elder sisters and since she could use magic, she was admitted in the Magic Academy.

Apparently, her family wanted her to live a safe life. Like a Scholar or a Merchant. And certainly, Francesca did have talent in those fields.

But, she liked magic. The moment when imagination is turned into reality. The radiance of magical energy. The exalting sensation she felt when she used magic.

Francesca Barton was a magician that loved using magic.

She was the third daughter of a noble family. She could never become the successor of her family. Her parents had raised her with love and care but sooner or later she would be betrothed to some other noble.

Then at least before that, let's try to enjoy life as much as possible. This was the reason why she left her house.

Her parents who had raised her like a princess—especially her father was extremely worried due to that though.

Or rather, he was clearly opposed to this.

But still she did it. Francesca Barton was the type that took action always.

Albana Magic Academy.

Though there are many magic academies in the Magic City, this one was the most excellent and superior among all.

Only nobles with a high court rank or those chosen for their incredible talent could only attend this academy. And Francesca who was attending this place was also a high ranked noble.

Her talent in magic was meagre. She could definitely be not called as talented.

The assessment from the teacher was 'just average'.

Her theoretical/classroom knowledge was slightly above average and practical skill was below average. Although she was a hard worker, it is not worthy of any special mention.

This was the assessment made by the Francesca's teacher.

From the point of view of the students, it was slightly different.

A serious honour student. She sucks a little in practicals but the effort she put in the class definitely gave a good impression.

And above all, her looks.

With her prided honey coloured hair made a perfect match with her smile that gave an impression as if a flower had bloomed.

Her personality was bright and cheerful and wasn't really too shy.

Her body that was much more developed than the other girls of her same age would pull the gazes of every boy.

Her big jade green eyes, her plentiful chest that seemed to be in imbalance with her delicate body, her slender waist, and her round buttocks, made her a beauty even among the Magic academy that was usually filled with beautiful women.

This also brought envy from her underclassmen, and jealousy from her classmates and upperclassmen.

But Francesca held the title of a noble. For the students, that was also a part that they were interested in.

If they could get in her good books, their position would also rise.

And if one was to stand alongside such a beautiful woman, even their status as a man would also rise.

It was a very obvious way of thinking so it couldn't be helped that the boys of such an age would harbour such thoughts.

Although not daily, she would get words mixed with confessions and flattery at a usual basis. She had even received countless love letters as well.

Many became jealous of her due to that as well, but the person herself simply couldn't help it.

Changing her hairstyle to one that wouldn't stand out, putting on minimal makeup, she tried all such things but it only had the opposite effect.

She only wanted to live her school life peacefully but her surroundings didn't allow this to her.

The girl who had a meagre talent in magic was, in fact, the centre of attention of the students.

But that's only what happened till half a year ago.

Three students transferred into the Albana Magic Academy.

Normally, admission were taken only in the third month and transfers were not allowed.

But even so, for the first time in the history of Albana Magic Academy, transfer students were accepted.

It was obvious that it would become a hot topic for discussion.

And to top it off, the transfer students were God Slaying Heroes.

Francesca was surprised.

They were an existence only told in fairy tales, in heroic epics.

The 13 heroes that defeated the Demon God that had been feared by the humans and the beastmen.

And three of them had transferred into her school.

It was obvious that she would be excited, that she would be interested in them. Everyone wanted to lay their eyes on them. Of course, Francesca was also the same.

The[Brave] Souichi Amagi.

The [Saint] Yayoi Amagi.

The [Grand Magus] Aya Fuyou.

God Slayers that defeated the Demon God.

The holders of the [Goddess' Gift] that were summoned from a different world.

Even though they were of the same age, they were saviours of the world.

There was no one who didn't know about them.

And what each and every one of them was doing now had been made public.

Except for one of the thirteen that had disappeared after defeating the Demon God.

Renji Yamada. There was almost no info only regarding him.

That was because he had wished so. There were rumours that he was still fighting against the army of demons.

The rest of the 12 God Slayers always said that [It was only him that is loved the most by the Goddess Astrarea].

And of those 13, 3 of them had come to her Magic Academy.

Their class ended up being a different one but, she would end up glancing at them every time they crossed paths in the corridor.

They had such a presence or charm.

.

.

.

(fran POV)

Opening my eyes, and seeing the sunlight seeping through the gaps of the curtains, I woke up hurriedly and a sharp pain ran through my whole body.

I writhed in agony on top of the bed.

Thinking about what was happening in my chaotic head, I realized that this room was much more modest than my own room.

And then I finally remembered that i was currently travelling.

“aaa.....”

A voice that did not seem suitable for a young girl like me leaked from my mouth.

As I endured the pain for some time, I finally became able to move.

And finally, I slowly raised my body.

Currently I was wearing a pajama that really doesn’t suit an adventurer.

“.....it hurts.”

It had hurt even when I had to sleep outside for the first time and had ended up pulling an all-nighter, but right now the pain is worse than that time.

Since it’s the first time I’m having muscular pains like these, I don’t know what I should really do about it.

The man travelling with me did say to massage well but since I was too tired I had fallen asleep soon after taking a bath.

I think, that’s probably the main reason.

I regretted as I hung my head,

But, no matter how much I dwell on it now, my muscular pains won’t go away. So resigning myself, I endured it and decided to change my clothes.

Removing my silk pajamas, I put on thick adventurer like shirt and trousers.

I had chosen clothes that wouldn’t emphasize my body line too much but I guess the womanly curves would end up showing even then.

I don’t know whether I should be happy for that as a girl or should I feel bad as an adventurer.

Thinking about such things, after changing I sat on my bed.

I was told that today I should rest but I can't think of anything to do.

Or rather, the pains make me don't want to move at all.

Even while I sit like this, my joints are still aching with pain.

"I wonder how everyone is doing."

Saying that, I became a bit anxious.

Did everyone at school, already finished their exams?

Everyone was challenging the monster subjugation exams along with those god slaying heroes.

For the heroes who saved the world, it would be an easy task.

But, for us who haven't travelled like this, it was extremely difficult.

Actually, I had been really at a loss when I ended up having to travel alone.

I had invited those who had been unable to make a party with the heroes but for some reason I never got an answer back from them.

Maybe they had some pressure from home.

Anyway, I ended up having to travel alone.

If I had kept waiting, I would have run out of time.

Where should I go? What should I do? Without knowing anything, and roaming around in a carriage, I had almost ended up dying in the village I had ended up reaching.

Even though I am a student of the Magic Academy, I don't have any combat experience.

I had believed, without any reason, that it would be easy to fight monsters with magic.

If people of the same age as me could become God Slayers, I could also at least fight.

I'm sure, everyone else is also thinking like that.

It'd be nice if everyone is fine. Thinking that, I slowly stood up.

As expected, every part of my body still hurts.

Enduring the pain, I exited through the door.

“I’m feeling hungry……”

Judging by the height of the sun from the window, it should be around noon right now.

This is the first time I had overslept like this. I could only smile wryly at that.

As I came down to the first floor that had been made into a diner, I saw the man travelling with me taking his breakfast right now.

Renji-san.

An adventurer.

The man who saved me when I was about to die.

Defeating all those goblins instantly, he is an amazing man…….I think.

I’m not sure.

He’s probably strong but, but I can’t understand what kind of guy he is.

He taught me various things as well.

He’s really reliable but he would sometimes look at me with the same perverted eyes as those guys of my own age.

I guess being older in age doesn’t mean much but for some reason I can’t seem to hate him for it.

He would soon avert his gaze and I can’t sense any evil thoughts like normal men.

It’s, as if, he’s just looking at me.

Am I paying too much attention to it, I wonder?

That’s why, I can’t understand him.

I should probably be a bit more cautious but I simply can’t think of him badly.

Whether that's because he had saved me from those Goblins or was it Renji-san's natural virtue, I do not know.

"Good Morning, Renji-san."

"It's already noon though."(renji)

"……haha, mind if we share a table?"

Speaking that, I sat on the chair. Renji-san was, as usual, playing around by flicking his medal with his fingers.

A ping ping sound resounded in my ears.

He was simply sitting on his chair lazily and was flicking his medal but for some reason he still seemed good looking.

It felt very adventurer-like.

That's probably because that's how I envision adventurers inside my head.

While thinking such rude things, I looked around.

Is an inn in a rural village really like this? The customers were only us and a few more men of the village.

"Are you fine with your muscular pains?"(renji)

"…….it really hurts."(fran)

"haha, well, that's normal."(renji)

Maybe my voice seemed funny, he laughed loudly.

As he laughed probably because I hadn't gotten used to travelling yet, I hung my head in shame and his gaze shifted towards my chest.

I hurriedly tried to cover up but, he averted his gaze before that.

Really, I can't understand him.

I felt that he was a really weird person.

"What had Renji-san been doing until now?"(fran)

"I just woke up as well."(renji)

He stretched his body, saying that.

I felt that I smelled alcohol somewhat.

“It’s already noon though.”(fran)

Was Renji-san also tired, I wonder?

When we had slept outside, I had soon fallen asleep. It was obvious who had been on watch all night.

He had also put up a tent for me and had also prepared the meals as well.

And I could simply do my best just to not fall behind while carrying only my own luggage.

Thinking like that, I ended up wondering just how much trouble I had already caused for this man.

Though he had said that we should go at my pace yesterday.

But that doesn’t mean that I could be simply use those words as an excuse.

At least, not till we defeat the Orc.

“I usually sleep till this time. I’m weak during mornings.”(renji) “Is that so?”

I had many things I wanted to say but if Renji-san says that then so be it.

I wasn’t really convinced but leaving it at that, I decided to order my meal as well.

Or rather, it’s not like I had a huge appetite so I simply asked for a light soup that would be easy on the stomach.

Renji-san also raised his hand and ordered the same soup as me along with a meat dish.

Ahh he really is a man. Having meat just after waking up is impossible for me.

“Oh right, apparently some Orcs are living in the nearby forest.”(renji) “Eh?”

My head went blank due to the sudden words.

Orc, the objective of our journey.

Graduation exam—-if I can complete this, I’d be able to successfully graduate from Albana Magic Academy.

And my other objective as well.....

“It seems a bit troublesome so I’ll go and scout tomorrow. Then we’ll decide whether to take the request or not.”(renji) Just when I was thinking that we’ll go to defeat it as soon as possible, I was told that first we’ll need to do some recon.

For me it was it was something we should have done urgently but Renji-san is the more experienced one here.

And, his gazes aside, I think he is a reliable and a trustworthy man.

“Request?”(fran)

“Yesterday, the villagers had requested me for it. It’s different that Miss Francesca’s but it is an Orc subjugation request.”(renji) “Is that so?”

Yesterday, I frowned a little but apparently he had accepted a request while I was sleeping.

Even though I had collapsed from travelling for just one day, he really has an amazing amount of stamina.

Probably because they are used to travelling, all adventurers can move around like Renji-san I think.

“I understand. Will you take me as well?”(fran)

When I said that, he showed a somewhat surprised expression.

Did I say something really that weird?

“It’s dangerous, you know?”(renji)

“Since my objective is to defeat an Orc, I have already resolved myself

for this."(fran) When I said that, he put his hand on his chin and began to think.

His chin still had a stubble which really stood out.

I think it looks really sloppy but it's very Renji-san-like.

Probably because he has this nonchalant leisurely atmosphere around him, being sloppy really suits him for some reason.

.....well, just because it suits him doesn't mean it looks very good though.

"I can't really recommend that."(renji)

"——is that so?"(fran)

But, even though I had requested, he did not allow me to accompany him.

Feeling dejected, my voice sank.

"There are three confirmed Orcs. Since I haven't confirmed the situation well yet, I don't have the confidence to protect you as well."(renji) Does that mean, once he's confirmed the situation, he can fight while protecting me at the same time?

Monsters are a threatening existence. And the more the numbers they have the more advantageous the monsters will be.

And he is saying that he can fight against three Orcs while protecting me at the same time.

On being told that implicitly, I felt a bit pathetic.

This man was, from the very start, intending to fight not alongside me, but while protecting me.

"Don't mind it too much. We'll be doing the subjugation together. It's your test after all."(renji) Maybe because he was worried due to my expression, he said that with a bright cheerful voice.

Somehow, he's been considerate towards me from the very start. Finding that embarrassing, I once again hung my head in shame.

“C’mon look.”(renji)

Saying that, he flicked the medal with *ping* sound.

The medal that rotated in mid air had a jade gem in the centre and had intricate craftsmanship. It was surrounded by 7 gems of different colours which showed that it must be something of high value.

And above all, it had a holy, sacred aura to it.

……Though since Renji-san is always flicking it around, its value seems to be lesser than it looks.

“It’s heads. It’ll be fine, I’ll be back soon.”(renji)

Just as Renji-san said that, our order was brought to us.

A fragrant smell reached my nose and the empty stomach made an excited noise.

“Well, it’s rest day today. First focus on healing your muscular pains.”

“uu……”

Those words made me embarrassed again and I hung my head down with shame again.

The meal brought to us was white bread, salad and a hot steaming vegetable-filled soup.

It looks really delicious.

“Thanks for the food.”

Saying that, Renji-san joined his hands once and began to eat.

On Renji-san’s tray, along with the same dish as mine, a grilled dish of Orc meat is also present.

Thinking that, it looks tasty as well, my gaze moved towards his hands.

“That action/gesture was…….”(fran)

“Nn? Oh, its something like a habit.”(renji)

Before eating, there are words spoken to thank the goddess.

Especially, sisters and priests of the church would often do so.

When I also ate with my family, I also gave my thanks to the goddess before eating.

That's why, I became curious.

"....."

That 'habit', I felt I had seen somewhere before.

But I can't remember where I saw that.

p> p>

Chapter 7 The God Slayer and Orc (2)

*

I walked through the pathway that didn't have much grass even though it was not a pavement, probably because villagers use this path a lot.

The sunlight was blocked by the dense and thick trees, and it was dim inside the forest.

Walking through such a place, being careful of not just monsters but normal beasts, snakes and insects as well, is much more tiresome for the mind than one would think.

I have gotten quite used to it but it would be painful for a beginner adventurer like Miss Francesca.

It was the right decision to have no brought her along with me. I felt a bit relieved now that I was sure that my decision was correct.

[We have come quite a bit deep but we still haven't found them.]

"Yeah."

I wiped the sweat on my brow with my sleeve.

My stamina is still fine but you get tired much more quickly when walking inside a forest.

I really want to find those Orcs quickly.

As I fixed my breathing after stopping for a while, I begin to walk once again.

I had arrived at the place told by the villagers but there were no Orcs there.

Either they had switched their den or they had left the forest itself.

Well, it's probably the former.

If there's no enemy that could endanger their lives, that village should be a great hunting ground for them.

They'll be able to find prey very easily.

I doubt they'll let go of such a hunting ground that easily.

Also—-

"A black Orc. Got any ideas about it?"

[Let's see. It should either be a High Orc or an Orc General. But I doubt either of those would live on the Imnesia continent.]

In the first place, if it was either of those two, it'll be beyond the scope of my skills.

I might be able to take care of a High Orc somehow but I'm still not very confident.

An Orc General would be too much for me.

Also, both of them were existences that lived on Abenelm.....the continent of demons.

It really must be a new variety——probably a mutation or a subspecies.

It'll be troublesome if they start being born all over the place.

[The effect of defeating the Demon God might be affecting the world itself as well.]

".....I see."

Probably it was thinking about something similar, Ermenhilde also spoke similar thoughts to mine.

Defeating the Demon God.

It was necessary in this world. If one was to believe the Goddess Astraera's words.

The Demon God that was trying to destroy the world.

Summoned from another world, to return back to our own world and to save this one, we fought.

But, this world had been created by the Trinity including the Goddess, the Spirit God and the Demon God.

The Goddess created the humans and light, the Spirit God created the earth and the beasts, and the Demon God created the demons and darkness.

I don't know how much of that is true but it really was an interesting thing.

If that was true then we had killed one of the pillars(god) that had created this world.

In that case, rather than heroes we'll be criminals. It would be such a crime that it won't be weird if we were cursed till eternity for it.

But, this world blessed us as the God Slaying Heroes.

If this was a game, it would be over after defeating the demon god. A happy end. The hero will marry the princess and will live together happily ever after.

That might have been for the best.

But this is reality. Not a fairy tale like a game.

The world will continue even after the Demon god was dead. People will have to continue living their lives.

Just what kind of effect will come due to killing one of the Trinity, nobody knows.

It could be that the Goddess or the Spirit God that made us do so know what will happen.

"I really want to finish this and return already."

[Again……?]

"It's fine because you're just a medal. I am the one who's walking, sweating, and it's hot, my body feels heavy and sluggish."

[You really complain a lot––try to act a bit more motivated.]

For Ermenhilde, subjugating monsters could be said to be its only desire.

Its voice seems to be 20% more energetic than usual.

But for me, this is just a scouting run.

Since I plan to return after confirming the case of this black Orc, I'm feeling carefree.

Basically, the same as usual.

Well, if I really will find an Orc by being more motivated, I might as well try that.

As expected, I will have to walk away from the normal tracks of the beasts here. I gave a sigh.

Monsters, normally, don't step into human territory. Villages, Towns, highways created by humans etc.

Because the monsters know that they'll be hunted if they come closer.

But, once you step out of human territory, and come closer to monster dens, all monsters would instantly bare their fangs.

Just like what happened with Miss Francesca.

"Now then, what should I do?"

I brought out the medal from my pocket and flicked it.

With a *piing* sound, Ermenhilde rotated in the air and I caught it with my right arm.

On opening my palm it was, Tails.

"Which one should I walk on now?"

[You hadn't even decided?.....]

I smiled wryly towards Ermenhilde's fed up voice. I decide to step further deep in the forest where the trees were even thicker.

With a rustling sound, I walked through the bushes and grass.

[Renji, look near your feet.]

Suddenly, Ermenhilde realized something on the ground.

As usual, my partner really is sensitive towards things fallen on the ground.

I picked up the metal object near my feet. It wasn't money. I felt a bit disappointed.

The fallen object was the clasp of a belt. It's a bit of an unusual thing to have found inside the forest.

Probably an Orc must have attacked a human.

While thinking of that, I bent my waist.

I put my nose near to the leaves where I found the metal piece.

"It smells."

[The smell of an Orc?]

"Yeah. They do have a very peculiar body smell."

Seriously, I feel deplorable that I have gotten used to this of all the things.

I smiled wryly as I spoke Ermenhilde's catch phrase.

But if I had not gotten used to such things, I would not have been able to go on journeys in the first place. I would not have become an adventurer.

Behaviour of goblins, hunting methods of Kobolds, smell of the Orcs.

There are many other such things as well which are considered as important knowledge to fight against monsters.

It's a skill which would be useless in the modern world, but I obtained it here in this world.

I don't really consider it bad either.

It's fun to travel along with my partner Ermenhilde.

Though I really want to stop chasing after monsters like this.

I only want to enjoy the scenery, leisurely, while collecting herbs.

I long for such a life style.

But even so, right now I'm pursuing an Orc.

I guess that's how life is.

[Concentrate.]

"I know."

I focused my mind with Ermenhilde's words.

I hate fighting but, seriously, I won't be negligent here.

In front of the power of monsters, the life of a human is nothing but a fickle thing that could easily disappear.

"Found it."

As I moved a bit more forward, in my line of sight.....was a clearing, even though we're this deep in the forest.

It's the dwelling place of the Orcs that they have made by toppling and mowing down the trees.

There, I could clearly see 11 Orcs.

.....There's too many of them.

I had only heard about 3 of them.

I cursed inside my mind but that won't change the reality.

Their skin colour was the same as normal pigs. But, they walk on two legs and were wearing a trouser-like waist cloth as well. Their hands held various weapons.

Their faces were the same as the pigs in our world and their cries were also the same oinking sound.

It's weird how they can communicate like that.

Well, for monsters, the language of humans would feel the same I guess.

In the hands of those Orcs, there were weapons stolen from humans as well as wooden poles that looked like logs. Swords, hammers, some even had bows.

Their equipment was varied but their bodies were more or less the

same.

With a height of 2m, their body was flabby like an obese.

Their arms were as big as human child's but the fact that they could hold a 2-handed sword easily with a single hand proved that underneath that soft-flabby skin, they clearly had trained muscles.

That body really is troublesome.

Although the skin seems soft, but underneath, the muscles are sturdy.

Since they do have a huge amount of fat, their legs have a lot of burden on it. But, that fat is able to block blades from even reaching till the muscles.

The best way to hunt an Orc is to destroy their legs and take away their mobility. Also, they can be taken down by spears or bows.

Their excessive fat is also the reason why they're so slow after all.

Even though their upper body grows so much, the lower body remains under grown in fact.

An Orc is such an unbalanced species.

[There are quite a lot of them.]

"Way too many."

Or rather, how did they swarm so much.

Monsters do that but I haven't seen Orcs swarm like this many times before.

While thinking that, I moved my gaze away from the group of Orcs.

I'm looking for that black Orc.

11 Orcs in itself was a big threat but I want to confirm that black Orc as well.

It might be the reason why so many Orcs have gathered here.

—-there it is.

I whispered.

The black Orc.

It's look was basically a normal Orc with black skin. But there was clearly a difference.

The 11 Orcs are working but that black Orc is doing nothing.

It's not a high orc but it's something with a very similar presence.

That was my first impression.

"Do you know what that is?"

[I'm seeing that for the first time. Didn't see one even during the time we were going to defeat the Demon God.]

"Thought so."

I thought maybe only I had forgotten but it seems Ermenhilde had the same opinion.

Never seen before. That was our answer.

I really didn't think I'd find a new species of monster in such a remote rural village.

You really can't tell what life has in store for you.

I really want to live life in peace though.

[Should we kill it now?]

"……let me think."

What should I do? I asked myself.

It would be easy to take it down right now but after killing that black Orc, what will happen with those 11 Orcs?

That black orc is clearly the commander type.

It's the existence that is holding them in such a group.

Then, what would happen if I destroyed their head?

Humans would panic and retreat. A group is weak when their leader is gone. There is a chance that they might attack as well, but there are few

humans who do that.

But, what of monsters?

They'd either run away inside the forest or go on a rampage and attack the village to take revenge for their commander.

I would be happy if it's the former but that sounds really difficult.

"What do I do, really?"

This way, the situation of that village is hopeless.

If this group of Orc were to attack the village, they would only be annihilated.

11 orcs are equal to a trained army platoon in terms of strength.

In this world, a platoon is made of three groups of 11-12 soldiers totalling in a formation of around 35 men in a single platoon.

To kill a single Orc, it'll take at least 3-4 normal soldiers.

A single Orc isn't a threat but a swarm of monsters is extremely troublesome.

Although it'll be different if there's a magician in the ranks but for a normal troop with no magicians, their war potential is as said before.

Skilled adventurers might be able to fight better but even then, they would still take a single orc with 2 men.

"Let's retreat for now."

[……mu.]

Ermenhilde gave a displeased voice.

It probably wanted to wage a battle here and kill that black Orc.

I was thinking the same, but the risk is too high.

And not to mention, in my current condition, I can't display the cheat power of a god slayer.

As expected, it'll be a bit too difficult to kill that Orc with a single knife.

Thinking that, I retreated while crouching.

Then———

“———“

“.....”

My gaze connected with the Black Orc’s.

There’s quite a lot of distance, it might be my imagination.

I quickly rejected that thinking. That Orc has definitely become aware of me. And it ignored me.

In those eyes, I clearly sensed intelligence.

It overlooked me as it did not consider me threat probably.

“This is bad, Ermenhilde.”

[What is?]

“That guy is extremely intelligent.”

Our eyes had met, only that.

But, it did not rush at me, nor did it become cautious. It ignored me.

There’s no way it’d didn’t realize my presence. I think. No I’m sure.

Just by meeting eyes with it, I’ve understood more about that Orc.

That’s why, I realized that it is trouble. It is a danger.

The fact that it ignored me means that it considers me as not a threat.

It’ll be bad to leave that black Orc alone.

That’s my intuition, after spending 2 years while defeating the Demon God.

Those intelligent are definitely extremely dangerous monsters.

Using traps would be common, taking hostages, using the enemy’s weaknesses. They are existences that would do anything to win.

Honestly speaking, they are harder to defeat than stronger ones who come and fight head on.

“Let’s return to the village and have a strategy meeting.”

[Though whether that girl would be of any help in the first place is pretty doubtful.]

“That’s true.”

Though I want to ask for help from the men in the village as well but I guess Orc would be too much for them as opponents.

Monsters are a threat to even trained soldiers after all. It might be too much for the villagers.

The only one that can be of any help is Miss Francesca who can use magic.

And even that magician is an amateur with no experience.

I could only sigh.

“I hate trouble. That’s why I wanted to avoid fighting monsters as well.”

[Then don’t be charmed by women.....haah.]

Can’t help that.

That chest along with those upturned eyes are not fair at all.

Or rather, I wouldn’t mind if it was just normal orcs. If they were normal that is.

I looked back, but the black Orc doesn’t seem to be chasing me.

If it’s going to ignore me, then I can only fell thankful.

When our eyes had met, my stomach had turned cold thinking that I’ll have to fight it along with the 11 Orcs. If it’s going to let me go, then I will run.

Wondering about the humiliation of being let go by those pig-like Orcs?

It’s much better than dying.

There are fight where you simply cannot retreat no matter what but this isn’t one.

Even Ermenhilde understands that’s why it didn’t say anything when I

chose to fight when I'll have better chances of winning.

It isn't saying anything but, it does seem to be angry.

It really has too much pride.

I caressed the medal inside my pocket with my finger.

[We, who defeated the Demon God, to turn our backs against mere Orcs.....how deplorable.]

"It's better than dying."

[.....For Renji to give a sound argument, this even more painful.]

I'll really cry dammit.

In the end, they didn't chase us even till I left the forest.

Chapter 8 The God Slayer and Orc (3)

*

Now then, what should I do?

There are 12 Orcs inside the forest. And one of them is a type I have never seen before.

If this is a funny story, I want a better one than this.

While tilting the wooden mug filled with Ale as I sat near the window of the bar, I thought such things.

Just now, when I reported this to the village chief, he asked me whether I could do something about it.

But why? I'm just an adventurer. I am not a monstrous hero or brave protagonist that could remain unmatched even against multiple monsters.

That's why I was pondering, what should I do?

There's a part of me that wants to work hard for the reward though.

[You only have two choices, either protect or abandon this village.]

That's true. I gave a wry smile.

Well, I do have various choices in how I should protect them though.

If I'm lucky, we might be fine till the squad from the royal capital appears here.

The Orcs might even go somewhere else as well.

That one is intelligent. It should be well aware of the consequences of baring fangs against humans.

Kill and be killed. Humans and monsters. It's a never ending battle. If they don't want that, they'd probably not come out of the forest—-

"Ah, I finally found you."

While I was pondering over such things, my employer, Miss Francesca appeared from the entry of the bar.

My lips became softer on hearing that beautiful voice that doesn't really suit a bar.

"Ou, Miss Francesca, Over here."

As I raised my hand, I gave a small sigh.

Probably, she came because I didn't contact her even after returning from my scouting trip.

As expected, alcohol doesn't taste good when you're making a irritated face. Seeing her beautiful face, I took another sip of the Ale. Yup, it's delicious.

[You goddamn drunkard.]

"Ha—-no mistake in that."(renji)

"?"(fran)

Miss Francesca who sat on the other side of the table looked at me puzzled as I talked to myself.

It seems, my mouth becomes loose whenever I drink alcohol.

It might be a bad habit of mine to reply to Ermenhilde out loud.

"Renji-san, what are we going to do about the Orc subjugation?"

"aa, as expected it's about that eh?"

"As expected?.....we did talk about the matter of Orcs yesterday, didn't we?"

Oh right.

While we were talking, the shopkeeper came to take her order.

She ordered a fruit juice and I also asked for some water instead of more ale.

If we're talking about the job then, as expected, it's bad manners to be drinking while doing so.

Also, I really need to seriously think about it as well. Let's sober up already.

"By the way Miss Francesca, how's your muscle pains?"

"uu.....it's fine now."

As I asked that, she shrunk back a bit before looking me back in the eyes and answering.

Ah, so it still hurts eh? Her reaction is really easy to understand.

It seems this woman sucks at lying. Finding her bluff amusing, I ended up laughing a bit.

At the same time, her cheeks became red and she hung her head down.

[Is it fun bullying younger ones?]

Of course, it's super fun.

Bullying young ones is the special right of the older ones.

Bringing Ermenhilde out of my pocket, I flicked the medal with a ping.

"It has become a bit troublesome actually so I am hesitating whether we should take up the village's request or not."(renji) "We won't accept it?"(fran)

As the medal landed in my palms it was, Heads.

"I'm thinking of accepting it actually."(renji)

At that moment, I took the water that the shopkeeper had brought.

Miss Francesca also took her juice and took a sip.

"But, it'll be a bit difficult with a simple frontal attack."(renji) "Frontal attack?"

"Yes, charging at them straight forwardly, or attacking them and burning them directly with magic. Such a fighting style would be difficult."

Saying that, I took a sip of water.

At such a time, what's important is the place where we fight.

We're going to take on 12 of them. It'll be good to be in a place where we won't get cornered.

In a forest, if one were to use the trees well, but even the Orcs should be already used to fighting there as well.

"It'll be dangerous if our opponents are 12 of them after all."(renji)
"…….what?"

Miss Francesca looked at me as if she was looking at something weird.

It's a bit amusing.

"How many, did you say just now?"(fran)

"12 of them."(renji)

"__"

Her jaw dropped and she froze like that.

She's making a stupid face which I would have definitely captured if I had a cellphone or a camera.

Well, I won't actually do something like that though.

[Well that's a good reaction.]

Yeah, I agree.

As I sipped my water, finally Miss Francesca returned to senses again.

"….why is Renji-san still so relaxed!?!"(fran)

"I'm not really calm. I'm worrying over what I should do as well."(renji)
[It should be said that you're already used to it, eh?]

Well, it's exactly as Ermenhilde said.

In fact, Miss Francesca's reaction right now is the proper correct one. Even I think so.

I was normal person of the society just three years back, how did I become like this?

Back then I would be surprised like Miss Francesca at every small thing as well.

But soon, I stopped being surprised at anything.

12 Orcs? And one of them is a new species and super intelligent as well.

But demons who are higher types of monsters, among them the demon lord, and even among them the existence that made the whole demonic species, the Demon God!

Compared to them, though these 12 Orcs are troublesome and scary but it's something that'd make me panic.

What's really dangerous are existences like that Black Orc and monsters against whom I'm useless alone.

Dragons or Vampires, Giants or Undeads. These are opponents that I can't fight without my comrades.

"Even if you panic, what we have to doesn't change."(renji) "But still, 12 of them is....."(fran)

"Well, it is a bit too much."

I laughed.

Miss Francesca looked at such a me with drooping eyebrows.

"I have a way, that's why we'll accept the request."

Also that black Orc. I want to take care of that at all costs.

I don't know why but it really gives me a bad feeling.

".....What will Miss Francesca do?"

"Me?"

"Yes. Taking on 12 of them is going to be difficult. Probably, I won't be able to fight while protecting you."

As I said that much, her expression became stiff realizing what I meant.

I can't fight while protecting you so you'll have to protect yourself.

It's not something that should be asked of a rookie adventurer really, I gave a bitter laugh inside my mind.

A dangerous job like this would normally by done by even veteran

adventurers only after gathering some numbers and in perfect condition.

It's not a request that a newbie adventurer and the weakest God-slayer should take on.

That's why, I hate fighting monsters.

It's filled with unexpected circumstances. The earnings are great but the dangers are great as well.

As expected, it doesn't suit me at all I think.

"I'll accept."(fran)

While I was thinking such things, she turned towards me with a resolved gaze.

Those green eyes were clearly looking at me directly in the eyes.

"There's the case of my test but……I'm also an adventurer now. Also, it's the duty of a noble to help the villagers."

"That's a brilliant readiness of heart you have there but, you might die you know?"

When I said that, those eyes swayed a bit.

As expected, the fear of death is great.

Duty of a noble and all that is simply a façade. Humans, anything that's alive, is afraid of dying.

Even I'm the same. There's no way this girl who's younger than me won't be scared.

Thinking that, this girl who wants to save these people even though she's scared looked really strong to me.

Even though I turned my back towards the duty of a God slayer.

[You're being mean now.]

Don't say that.

I ended up smiling wryly to my partner's words.

Maybe she sensed something in me, Miss Francesca looked at me with a

slight sullen expression.

That expression is also really cute. Man, beauties really remain beautiful no matter what expression they make.

“Well, I’ll try to make sure that the danger remains as less as possible.”(renji) “Eh?”

“I can’t make a newbie do something too difficult. I guess it’ll sound cooler if I simply say that I’ll protect you though.”

[No, it’s fine if you say that, you God slaying Hero.]

That’s impossible, I shrugged my shoulders.

That’s not my character after all.

“I’ll go from the front and you’ll cause disturbance with your magic from behind. If we try to think of a too complicated tactic, it’ll only blow your fuse after all.”(renji) “Fuse?.....Eh?”

“I mean that you’ll end up panicking during the actual thing. You were scared when you were attacked by those goblins right?”

When I said that, she slightly nodded while hiding her face with the wooden mug.

She looks like a small animal.

“This time it’ll be even scarier. After all there are going to be 12 Orcs. That’s much scarier than mere 5 goblins.”

I flicked Ermenhilde (medal) with my thumb.

As it rotated in the air, I grabbed it in mid air and, Heads.

“It’s heads. We’ll make it somehow.”(renji)

“No you’re supposed to say that you’ll definitely make it succeed there.....”

“I won’t say something like ‘definitely’. I’m not that amazing.”

I laughed and then I sighed.

But I can’t help it.

‘Definitely’ That word belongs only to hero protagonists. It shouldn’t be used like a villager C like me.

“That medal.”(fran)

“nn?”(renji)

Miss Francesca’s gaze moved towards Ermenhilde in my hand.

“Is it something precious to you?”(fran)

“nn……”

I wonder.

I carry it along like it’s obvious and is the existence I’m most familiar with.

It’s precious but I can’t simply describe it with just those words.

[……]

Also, this stupid God Slaying weapon is being suddenly meek right now.

“It’s a cursed medal. If I let it go, I’ll die.”(renji) “……is that actually okay?”(fran)

“It’s fine really. I’m fine as long as I don’t let it go right?”

Looks like I ended up worrying her seriously.

Making fun of this girl might be amusing or troublesome or just difficult, I think.

[Tch]

By the way, Ermenhilde was clicking its tongue.

It’s fun to tease this one as well, in its own way.

Its important to think of difficult things but I guess being carefree like this really suits me.

Those Orcs and that new species black Orc.

Well, there’s a mountain full of problems in front of me right now.

.

.

.

.

“Now then, I think we should start the special training.”(renji) We were currently in a clearing a bit away from the village and the highway.

There were no signs of Goblins or other monsters for now.

Though some might appear to see what we’re doing as well.

“Even though you say Special training.....I can only fireball or ice arrow and other such basic magic, you know?”(fran) As she said that, she dropped her shoulders in an apologising manner.

I wonder whether that was really okay as a student of the Magic Academy but I’ll let it go for now.

“That’s enough. I’ll have you imagine something even more simpler than that.”(renji) “Simple.....is it?”

“Yeah.”

Saying that, I pointed towards the ground.

“Dig a hole.”(renji)

“.....”

She looked at me with a really suspicious gaze.

For some reason, the magicians of this world specialise only in either direct attack magic or very domestic-based magic.

The former include releasing a fireball, ice arrow or making strong lightning fall as well.

While the latter includes creating water or crushed ice for use, or lighting dark areas etc.

But for some reason they don’t use magic that involve moving objects or digging holes like this.

During our fight with the monsters, I did see magicians easily blow up

enemy trenches so maybe they find it too inefficient, I think.

I find it pretty convenient though, things like pitfalls and traps.

Even the [Grand Magus] that was with us first found flashy things better but after realizing the merits of using pitfalls, she started listening to me as well.

Generally the imaginations involved are, confirming the enemy, creating the fireball, making it fly towards the enemy, and hitting it.

Even basic magic require these 5 processes.

But pitfalls are basically, looking at the ground, imagining a hole in it.

At most, only 2 processes are necessary. Though there is also regulating the size and depth of the hole but still it's still shorter than normal magic.

Thus, I was thinking of having Miss Francesca do the same as well.

It'll help her in protecting herself as well after all.

The fact that it has a small activation time itself is a big advantage.

"A pitfall. You'll make Orcs fall into them and it's over. It won't kill them but they'd become unable to do anything."(renji) "....."

Also, since its magic, all she has to do is imagine the hole directly beneath where the Orc is standing, that's all.

There's no need to go through the trouble of luring them into them either.

Afterwards, you can deal with them however you want as long as they are in the hole. Bury them, attack them with magic etc. Since they won't be able to attack back anyway.

Though the value of their meat would fall due to damage but it's a pretty safe way of hunting them.

"That's an amazing plan."(fran)

When I explained, she began admiring me for it.

For some reason, magicians really like to think of only flashy magics.

Though I don't have any proof but I think anyone can use flashy magic if he wants. Not to mention that the mental fatigue and magical energy consumption is also huge.

Shouldn't most magicians be thinking of being more efficient?

With this, her use of magic should also turn to different directions, I think.

[.....Another weird magician is going to be born.]

"How rude."(renji)

I flicked the medal with a ping

[A magician specialising in pitfalls and restraint magics is definitely a weirdo. Your way of teaching is wrong, definitely.]

But I really think that's more convenient though.

Restraint techniques are good during few people vs. few people. As expected, only our [Grand Magus] could use such techniques even against a whole army.

Using roots of trees and vines, she really was undefeatable inside forests.

Well, its all a result of my training though.

Since pitfalls are simple, they can be imagined even during close combat so its really convenient.

Though I don't know that since I can't use magic but since our [Grand Magus] had said so, it must be true.

It's good enough even if it can slow the opponents down during battle since it'll make them more vigilant against you.

"Then, I'll try."(fran)

"Ou."(renji)

Moving away from her, I sat down on a rock nearby.

[You won't train?]

"I don't know how am I supposed to even train with a knife?"

In the first place, my weapon isn't a knife. Ofcourse, it isn't a dagger either.

I don't really see the need to train with such weapons.

Unsheathing the iron knife, I spun it around my hand.

"Orc's skin doesn't look like I'll be able to cut with this."

[Obviously. The Hero Yamada Renji's weapon isn't something pathetic like that, it's me.]

My lips loosened on hearing that somewhat prideful voice.

That's true.

"My weapon, is only you."

[Yes.]

As I turned my gaze towards Miss Francesca, her body looked to be swaying a bit.

Magical energy.

A power that every magician holds and is used by them to bring about supernatural phenomenon.

Their colours are varied and just like Miss Francesca's magical energy is colourless, it can be red or blue as well.

If I recall correctly, the colour of the magical energy also represents one's talent.

Our [Grand Magus] was golden, [Sorcerer] was dark purple––in his words, it was the colour of darkness.

Both had high level of talent, I think but I can't really remember who was better.

Probably, they were around equal I think.

While I was thinking that, a 50cm diameter hole was created right in

front of me. It's depth was....about 30cm.

The earth that had disappeared had fallen beside Miss Francesca.

She must have imagined digging the earth out to create a hole.

"Too shallow. The Orc commander is one head taller than me. You'll have to make it more bigger and deeper."(renji) "Yes!"(fran)

I ended up giving a wry smile on the energetic answer from her.

I feel like I'm a instructor at a training school. Not that I have any actual experience of doing that though.

But, magicians really are amazing.

When I look at this, I sometimes feel that maybe I should have also asked for being able to use magic when asking for the Cheat abilities.

I would have been unparalleled with magic that didn't exist in our world. It's a situation that every man would yearn after.

Aah, I really did something wasteful.

[What happened?]

"Nothing."

As I sighed, Ermenhilde asked me in a worried voice.

Well, the cheat I had asked for was [the Power to kill even God], that's why I was able to meet and talk with Ermenhilde like this so I guess my worries are for naught.

"I'm really glad that I met you."

[.....then why the hell were you sighing?]

I am being doubted.

My partner is really heartless. Seriously.

Chapter 9 The God Slayer and Orc (4)

*

The most inconvenient thing after coming to this world was, the lack of internet.

Internet. The symbol of modern civilisation. The treasury of knowledge. The string of electricity that can connect to anywhere.

You can find any and everything on it.

What you want to know, what you don't know, things you find weird etc.

And, everyone is connected through it.

For example—someone you want to meet, someone you want to contact with, someone with whom you want to talk and even with people you don't know anything about.

That's why, I really want the internet here.

Why looking at the clear blue sky, I thought of this.

Currently, Souichi-kun should be going to a school somewhere, he should have free time as well.

Couldn't I call him and have him kill these Orcs for a bit?

After all, it's the duty of the Brave to kill monsters, right?

"Renji-san, how does this hole look?"(fran)

While breathing heavily, Miss Francesca asked me so while I was thinking of stupid things.

Her expression was filled with confidence and a wide smile.

Her hair stuck to her forehead with sweat and her bright smile felt way too dazzling.

.....though what she's saying is very weird.

Should a girl of this age be talking about 'holes' like this in such a loud

voice? Though I am the type who likes it.

But I think I'll be killed if her parents knew of this. While I thought of such things inside my head, I moved my gaze towards the pitfall created by Miss Francesca.

"Not bad, I guess?"(renji)

"Alright!"(fran)

Width-80cm, depth-around 2.5m. It's a well made hole in which I'd completely fit.

It's a size out of which an Orc would definitely be unable to get out.

Miss Francesca held her both hands and seemed to be filled with happiness.

She must be really happy because I think she might be crying a little.

Well, after being made to create over 50 holes, anyone would cry I guess.

"Then, let's fill up the holes next."(renji)

"....."

"If you dig then you also have to bury them back. If you leave so many holes beside the highway, I think you'll be scolded you know?"

".....even though Renji-san was the one who made me do this."

"It's fine. I'll also help."

As I gave a wry smile as she seemed to be a bit angry, I picked up the shovel I had borrowed from the villagers.

Seeing me like that, Miss Francesca breathed a sigh.

[Ah.....It was the same when Aya created these holes for the first time as well right?]

Yeah. It's a nostalgic memory.

After that, as a result of the training, a specialised hole creating magician had been born.

That really was a pitiful incident, really. It's a part of the sad past of the [Grand Magus]. Even now it's the same though.

While thinking about such things of the past, I lowered my shovel into the mountain of dirt beside Miss Francesca.

And threw it inside the nearby hole.

"But, Renji-san can't really use magic right?"(fran) "huh?"

While I was filling up the hole, Miss Francesca said in a surprised voice.

By the way, she's filling up holes back with magic.

Yeah, magic really is convenient.

"Why are you so informed about magic?"(fran)

"I'm not really that informed. Probably."

"No such thing. At least, I think only Renji-san has thought of a magic to create such pitfalls."

Really?

Well probably, I think someone somewhere is still using them, those pitfalls.

"I'm told that often. That I have a weird way of thinking."(renji) My way of thinking about magic is similar to elfs and pixies.....spirit magic of the demi-humans or so I'm told.

Humans are the ones who specialise in direct attack magic.

In contrast, the demi-humans use surprise attacks, restraints, status afflicting––basically indirect magic.

Humans and demi-humans have begun to have a better exchange in culture in recent years since they found a common enemy in the Demon God.

Before that, though not to the extent of fighting, they simply tried to keep out of each other's way.

Humans who cut apart, burned down and expanded their territory while

destroying nature.

Demi-humans, who thanked the earth and lived together with the nature.

They couldn't get along so easily.

In that sense, we might have to thank the Demon God.

Well, they have such a relation. They aren't close enough that they'll teach other their systems of using magic.

Until and unless one was special like us, there would be no way to get such information.

[Renji, you're the weirdest and the most eccentric of all, after all.]

For some reason, my partner said that with a happy tone.

While sustaining a wound on my not-so-delicate heart, I sighed.

"Ah, sorry....."(fran)

"Maybe she thought something about it, she ended up apologising like it was normal.

That hurts in its own way so please stop.

After that as well, while talking about useless things, we filled back the holes.

About my journeys till now, what I was doing before I became an adventurer, why I became an adventurer etc.

Why is everything about me? Do young noble ladies find pleasure in adventurous tales?

Surprisingly, she didn't talk about the Orcs even once, probably because she was scared.

Tomorrow, we'll be fighting.

Let's stop here and rest and face them tomorrow in our perfect conditions.

I didn't say it out loud but Miss Francesca should have also realized it

by now. Even while walking and laughing, her expression was slightly stiff.

“It’ll be fine.”(renji)

After filling back all the holes, I flicked the medal Ermenhilde with my thumb.

As the setting sun reflected on it and made it shine, I caught my rotating partner with my hand.

“It’s Heads.”(renji)

As I opened my hand, just as I had declared, it was Heads.

“It’ll go well. We’ll complete the request safely.”(renji) As I declared that, her stiffened expression seemed to have loosened a bit.

Well, I had seen which side I was catching before I actually caught it though.

My kinetic vision is strong enough to be able to do something like that. The Cheat ability isn’t just for show.

[As usual, Renji is good with his words, eh?”]

I returned that fed up voice with a wry smile. Ermenhilde, adults are such dirty beings.

I have tricks and secrets but this is perfect to calm someone.

As I shouldered the now used shovel and smiled, she smiled back.

As long as I can see such smiles, I don’t mind being sneaky.

.

.

.

The next morning, while it was still dim outside, we had come to the entrance of the forest before the sun began to rise.

To live one has to sleep and eat.

Even Orcs sleep at night and become hungry as well.

So we'll be attack while they're sleeping or eating. We didn't attack at night because there was a chance to get lost inside the forest.

I am used to walking inside the forest but if it's a surprise attack, I can't use light either. So the chance of getting lost was very high.

With Miss Francesca along, all the more so.

"Will it really be fine?"(fran)

"Well, if Miss Francesca can walk properly, we'll be fine."

"……mouu."

Tunic and green trousers along with an overcoat and an iron knife on my waist.

Also, I had a 2 small pouches filled with potion.

There's no real chance of using the potion. They are meant to be used after the battle.

They aren't immediately effective like the potions in video games so they can't really be used during battle.

In my pocket was my trusted partner. I'm with my usual equipments. The preparations are perfect.

While Miss Francesca was fastening her leather breastplate with her fingers, I confirmed my equipment as well.

"Are you fine with just that equipment?"(fran)

"Orcs attacks are strong enough that it'll be over with a single hit. Even with heavy armour, I'll get crushed inside."

Rather than that, it's better to simply avoid.

Miss Francesca can simply make them powerless with pitfalls while staying out of their range.

After inspecting our equipment, we continued into the forest.

I know the place. As long as they haven't changed their place of dwelling after that, that is.

.

.

.

“Renji-san is amazing.”(fran)

How long have we walked inside the forest?

You really lose the sense of time while you’re walking inside a forest.

Miss Francesca was walking behind me with just enough distance that she doesn’t get left behind.

After walking through almost 80% of our distance, Miss Francesca talked to me.

We both had been silent after entering the forest so I was a bit surprised.

Maybe due to the atmosphere, even Ermenhilde had been silent for some reason.

Well, I wouldn’t be able to reply if Miss Francesca was beside me so it would have ended as a one-sided bantering though.

……..that would have been torture in itself.

At times we’ll create pitfalls and traps and mark them.

Just in case they might come useful if we ended up running.

“What’s so amazing?”(renji)

As I covered the pitfall with grass, I asked back.

“Even though we’re facing 12 Orcs, you’re still calm as always.”(fran)
Am I?

Normally, I would talk more, fool around and enjoy seeing Miss Francesca pant as she is unable to get used to walking in the forest.

When I thought that way, maybe I am also a bit tensed.

We killed the Demon God. We even fought against the demons and the Demon Lord.

But still, I was scared.

Humans die easily. Because I know that. And I am also a human.

Even if we're called God Slaying Heroes, we're still humans.

"I'm scared. My hands are shivering."(fran)

"I see."

Me too, I couldn't say that.

After all, I'm the senior here, I'm the elder one here, I'm the man.

It's always like this.

My comrades were all younger than me. There was only one woman that was in the same age group as me.

That's why I couldn't complain, even when I was scared I wasn't discouraged, even when wounded I didn't cry.

I had no choice but to be so.

I was the older one, the man, because I was the adult.

.....I have such a duty I think. Really.

In forests, in dark places, it's bad to be too silent. I'll end up thinking only in the bad direction.

Standing up, we began walking again.

"It'll be fine. You won't die."(renji)

I simply said just that.

There's no meaning behind it.

You will die when your time comes and a person who can live through anything will definitely live through it.

That's why, there's no meaning behind my words.

But the silence was painful so I said that, that's all.

"Yes."(fran)

But, if simply words can make one calm down then I'll say that as many

times you want.

I think that way. I'm not strong enough to show that with my attitude or abilities.

My cheat, [Power of God Slaying], is really weak. I can only use it in limited conditions.

That's why, I'm different from those 12, I'm the weakest.

[What is it?]

Unconsciously, I was stroking Ermenhilde inside my pocket.

There's no meaning to it. Only—it was to divert my anxiety.

[Even though, you're actually a coward.]

Don't say things like that.

I'm the man here, the adult here. Even if I want to cry, even if I'm scared, even if I'm shivering, I can't act weak in front of her.

That's what my role is.

[Renji won't die. I'm here after all.]

Ah, is that so.

I smiled wryly and once again stroked the medal inside my pocket.

In that time, we reached our destination.

Hiding inside the bushes, I examined the surroundings.

The settlement of Orcs.

Their numbers are.....14

"It grew again."(renji)

".....are they sleeping?"(fran)

In front of our view, in a place without trees, Orcs were sleeping.

Some used tree stumps as pillows, some used their weapons as pillows, some used each other as pillows.

Are you a gathering of drunkards? Seeing that human or rather, old man

like behaviour, I felt that Miss Francesca's tension seemed to have lessened a bit.

"Even monsters sleep."(renji)

"So it seems."

"They didn't teach you this at school?"

"……uu."

It seems they don't teach this.

I had told her this before but she must have been in doubt even then. After talking a bit more, her tension lessened a bit more.

She's a student of magic academy after all, they must be teaching only magic.

Rather than fighting monsters, they give a more scholarly image.

"The first stage of the plan seems to be a success."

"Yes."

If the Orcs were to wake up now, it'll completely become a head-on battle instead of a surprise attack.

But now, we should be able to turn at least half of them powerless.

Calming a bit, I searched for the problematic black Orc.

But, it wasn't here.

I tried changing locations but I still didn't find it. Is it not with this group?

It's a new species, maybe it was removed from the group……no way.

That one was definitely the leader of this group. It must be in a different place.

I could search for it but we don't know when these ones would wake up.

The sun would also reach high enough soon. There's not much time left before the Orcs wake up.

“Let’s take care of the small fries first.”

“Orcs are small fry?……I understand.”

I could only think of Orcs like that but, as expected, for the people of this world, even the lowest level of monsters are a big threat. For even a magician.

“Probably, the black Orc would barge in between.”

“Black?”

“Yes, black.”

I couldn’t think of any other name for it after all.

Other than its black skin, it looked completely similar to a normal Orc.

“I’ll be the one to face that one. Miss Francesca, you shouldn’t do something unreasonable and simply take care of the normal Orcs from a distance.”(renji) “Black…….is it because of that Orc that so many of them have gathered here?”

“Well, who knows? I’m not a scholar either so I’m not sure.”

Those intelligent guys can think of reasons behind why these Orcs gathered.

I’ll do what I can do the best.

Killing them.

I took out the iron knife from my waist.

I glanced at its rusty edge and gave a sigh.

[If turns dangerous, use me.]

“I know––“

I took a deep breath.

Whether I’m tensed or excited, my heart is beating faster.

But, there was no sweat on the palms that were holding the knife.

Miss Francesca also drew her 70cm long short sword.

The tip of the sword was trembling.

“It’ll be fine.”(renji)

I say that once more.

“You will not die.”(renji)

.

.

.

.

The surprise attack was a success.

8 of the Orcs fell in the pitfalls, and their surprised shouts woke up the rest of them.

But even then, they were in chaos and were unable to take proper actions.

Searching for their weapons, they panicked as they looked at their fallen comrades.

Jumping out of the bushes, I closed in towards the nearest Orc.

While surprised, it was able to swing its punch towards the sudden intruder but even faster than that, the iron knife cut at its underarm.

“Tch.”

[Too blunt.]

Seriously.

I did expect this but I could only click my tongue when the blade couldn’t cut through.

But, the ORc that busy looking at me, fell inside the pitfall created by Miss Francesca.

A dull could have not reacted when a pitfall suddenly appeared underneath it.

5 remaining.

Without minding their fallen comrades, two Orcs came towards me with their weapons.

“funn”

Moving to the area between those 2 Orcs, I kicked the knee of one of the Orcs.

Orcs had small legs. That’s because it would be impossible to carry their overlarge body with normal human like legs.

This made them unable to make tight turns and lessened their reflexes.

Though it looked like I was trapped between two Orcs, they didn’t even face towards me right now.

I kicked once again. With more strength this time.

This time, with a dull sound, the Orc’s knee bent to an impossible direction and broke.

It’s thanks to my enhanced leg strength given by the cheat. If I were to kick seriously, I could blow away even a giant.

With that leg strength, the Orc’s one knee was snapped.

Unable to understand what had happened, the Orc stopped moving.

Finally, the other Orc turned towards me and raised its weapon.

“Renji-san!”

I ignored Miss Francesca’s voice.

Avoiding the incoming blow with a paper-thin distance, the other fallen Orc’s head was crushed instead by that blow.

If it’s impossible with my iron knife then all I have to do is use a different stronger attack.

The dull Orcs were good for that.

4 remaining. Also, the Orc that had attacked me just now fell down due to the gravity.

Right underneath me, the pig raised its hands high trying to crawl out of the hole.

It's fingers reached the tip of the hole but it simply didn't have the arm strength in it to carry itself out of there.

"3 remaining."

Those 3 were running towards me from the other side.

I stepped back due to their intensity and ran while dodging the nearby pitfall.

I'm not trying to escape though.

"Pitfall!!"(renji)

A pitfall was created in front of my path. Jumping over it, I heard groans from behind me.

As I looked back, Orcs that had been chasing after me were reduced to 2.

We can do this. A slight sense of hope was born in my chest.

But, the 2 Orcs who judged Miss Francesca to be more of a threat than me began running in my opposite direction.

I quickly stopped and began to chase after the Orcs that were ignoring me.

Since they were slow, I quickly caught up and kicked their back with my full strength.

And just like that, another one fell into a pitfall.

[What a ridiculous fighting style.....only one of them has actually died, you know?]

"If I can fight safely then it doesn't matter."

Last one—just as my eyes caught towards the remaining one, the black Orc entered my view.

Since water was dripping from its body, it was probably bathing till

now.

It really does live leisurely. But, it also proved that it really was intelligent. An Orc that bathes is too weird after all.

Maybe it returned in panic, its breath was ragged.

“Miss Francesca!”

“Yes!”

A pitfall appeared underneath it.

But it dodged it by jumping back a second earlier.

——It’s not just intelligent but also quick, eh?

And, the remaining normal Orc headed towards Miss Francesca without hesitation.

“Run! Calm down and—-“(renji)

[Dodge, Renji!!]

While I was trying to speak to Miss Francesca, I was startled.

Above the black Orc, a lump of rock was floating.

I know what that is.

“An Orc is using magic!?!”(renji)

As I hurriedly jumped, a rock the size of a human fell down on the place I was standing earlier.

The ground burst and dirt flew up. I was surprised by its strength but I quickly fixed my posture and avoided falling into a pitfall.

This is the first time I’m seeing an Orc using magic.

No matter how intelligent it is, does it even possess magical energy? There’s a limit to how unfair it can be.

As my head was in chaos, I lost sight of the black orc.

[Any injuries?]

“None.”

I briefly answered and gripped the iron knife in my right hand.

While crouching, I looked at the surroundings. Hole, hole, hole. The black orc is.....

“Renji-san, are you alright!?(fran)

“I’m fine! Rather than that———“

What about you? Before I could ask that, the black Orc aimed for Miss Francesca this time.

This time the atmosphere distorted. And the figure of the black Orc swayed like a heat haze.

“It’s not just rocks?!”

I began to run. At the same time, a hole was created below the black Orc.

This time it fell in the hole.....it was too shallow. It stopped after falling to its knee level.

But, it seems this was able to stop the activation of its magic.

A good way of using it. That girl might have the talent to be a pitfall expert magician.

While thinking such stupid things, I moved to a position where Miss Francesca was protected by my back and then, I started running towards the Black Orc.

The black Orc gave out a cry.

Pointing towards it stomach, I positioned my knife. If I can’t slash it then I’ll just pierce through it.

I’ll end this Orc right here. A magic using Orc is definitely a danger.

Letting my guard down thinking it was a normal Orc, just how much damages would—— “Kyaaaaa!?!”

“!?”

Stopping due to the sudden scream, I turned towards Miss Francesca.

There, my fellow traveller had been captured by an Orc.

Focusing on the black Orc, I had forgotten about the remaining Orc, I finally realized that.

And—-

“Aah, I should have known.”(renji)

The Black orc stretched its arm towards me. Behind me was Miss Francesca restrained by the Orc. I won’t be able to avoid the magic being fired this time.

In front of its arm, a fireball appeared. Dark black, a flame I had seen before.

As my line of sight matched with the Orcs, I felt like it was grinning.

I stopped my legs and faced the black orc and put strength into the arm gripping the iron knife.

Take on the flame? That’s impossible. The tunic I’m wearing won’t defend me against that falme.

If I dodge, Miss Francesca will die——-

[Good grief.]

Unusually, Ermenhilde gave a slight impatient voice.

But that voice, made me feel calmer.

The black flame became larger, as large as a human and it was still growing.

Let alone me and Miss Francesca, it would even swallow up the other Orc as well.

Well obviously. That’s the kind of flame that is.

I know. Just how many comrades and enemies that flame has swallowed.

“Ermenhilde, lend me your strength.”

[—-Roger that.]

My, Yamada Renji's, cheat is very weak. It can only be used in certain specific conditions.

That's why, unlike the other 12, I was the weakest.

But, in those certain situations.

In a situation where those certain conditions have been fulfilled.

I'm also, definitely one of the [God Slayers].

Chapter 10 The God Slayer and Orc (5)

*

The Goddess declared.

That she would give the power to save the world.

The Goddess wished.

Please save the world.

The Goddess smiled.

The world shall be saved.

The Goddess asked.

What do you wish for?

.

The Brave said.

I want an undefeatable will.

To never lose to anyone no matter what the time.

.

The Grand Magus said.

I want God-like power.

Magical energy that could even create miracles.

.

The Sorcerer said.

I want an eye that can see the future.

An eye that can change whatever unreasonable future that may come to them.

.

The Sage said.

I want to use every magic that exists in this world.

I want to become an existence that can use all kinds of magic.

.

The Monster Tamer said.

I want friends.

Friends that will never betray me and will always believe in me.

.

The Swordsman said.

I want a sword.

A sword that cut apart any and everything, even fate itself.

.

The Warrior said.

I want the power to fight.

To be able to use all kinds of weapons, I want to be the strongest warrior.

.

The Saint said.

I want power to save others.

A power that can heal any wounds, I want a gentle power.

.

The Wiseman said.

I want knowledge and techniques.

I want to create convenient items, magic items that don't exist in this world, I want the knowledge and techniques to build them.

.

The Cook said.

I want to cook food that will bring upon smile to everyone's faces.

I don't want the power to fight, I want to cook meals that can save a person's heart.

.

The Knight said.

I want power to protect my comrades.

A power that can protect even the world, I want to become the strongest shield.

.

The Avenger said.

I want power.

Simply pure power to defeat all of my enemies.

.

.

.

.

My, Yamada Renji's, wish was very simple.

Yet it was a complicated, cruel and unbelievable wish that made even the Goddess laugh loudly.

That's why I was provided with, the strongest partner, Ermenhilde.

That might have been some sort of pity on me.

Me, who could never become a Hero, to have to live along side many Heroes, she might have wanted to give me something that would listen to me and understand me at all times.

"Renji-san!!"

Black flames approached. Black, dark, flames that could easily swallow a human.

Miss Francesca's voice resounded, maybe she was worried for me or she wanted me to do something about this.

Letting go of the iron knife in my right hand, I put my left hand inside my pocket. What I grabbed was my strongest partner, Ermenhilde.

My weapon, my partner, my trustworthy weapon could only be this one.

[Three of the covenants have been released.]

From the hand that grabbed Ermenhilde, a jade coloured magical energy gushed out.

Seven Covenants that bind my [God Slaying Power]. Seven conditions that activate it.

The method of the Goddess to fulfil Yamada Renji's wish was truly distorted and beyond saving.

A power that did not suit a Hero yet specialised in killing Gods.

Conversely speaking, it was a power that had no use except when fighting against Gods.

Against normal monsters, it was nothing more than a slightly sharper weapon.

Even though it was a power to defeat the Demon God, it couldn't cut even low-level monsters properly.

"That's more than enough."(renji)

But, against a [God]I was not inferior to even any of the other God Slayers.

Three have been released.

Probably they are, [To Protect someone], [My own will to fight] and—[Fighting against the Demon God]. These must be the conditions that have been cleared right now.

Against a mere Orc, it's more than enough.

A blew away the incoming black flames with simply the hade magical energy coming out of Ermenhilde.

Furthermore, the magical energy took shape and took the form of a sword of the same colour.

It's not simply a beautiful gem shaped like that. It's a divine sword that could cut apart even a Mithril Golem.....that's only if it's being affected by the Demon God, that is.

Against a normal Mithril Golem, it'll probably break.

"Alright, it's been three months, right?"

[.....Don't say it. I'll feel like crying.]

3 months ago we had fought against an Ogre in a rural forest to complete a request, my feelings were excited like that time now.

The blade of the sword was jade green. The material it was made of was unknown. It was a mysterious sword whose strength changes depending on the number of covenants that have been released.

The handle and grip were golden. Underneath the grip was a lump of big jade. Inside it, 7 small gems of different colours were studded.

Among those 7 gems, 3 were lightly shining right now.

"Renji...san?"(fran)

"nn"

As I looked back, I saw Miss Francesca who was restrained by the Orc.

Her dumbfounded expression looked truly amusing and though it was rude, I ended up laughing a bit.

"Sorry. I made you face something dangerous."(renji) When I said that, the Orc that was restraining her let go of her and ran away at full speed.

Probably it was afraid of the attack that was about to envelop even him as well. Or maybe it was simply afraid of me.

I ended up smiling wryly. Even though, normal Orcs pose a bigger threat to me than that black Orc.

Facing its back, I threw daggers of the same jade colour made out of magical energy towards it.

Without missing, the daggers struck into its head as if they were being sucked to their target.

I gave an apology inside my mind. I had no reason to let it go alive from here. At the same time, while scratching my head I turned towards the girl who had fallen on her bottom .

“It’ll be helpful if you don’t get too surprised.”(renji) “A, eh……yes.”

[No, that’s impossible. You’re a Hero, you’re like an ‘idol’ to normal people who can never reach them.]

“Where the heck did you learn that word……”(renji) It must be him, that chunnibyo patient wannabe Sorcerer.

I sighed. I might have to complain to him one of these days.

Well, it’s been an year since we met though. He must be energetic as usual. I thought of such things.

From Miss Francesca’s expression, she must have realized my identity so I didn’t try to hide my conversation with Ermenhilde either.

The name Renji was rare but it wasn’t like there was no other with that name.

But, Ermenhilde’s name was famous. [The God Slaying Weapon]. The Sword of the Goddess.

Well, its not actually a sword but there’s no need to go and correct them.

It is the sword that’s easy to use, I looked towards the jade sword in front of me. And it’s true that this is the most common form in which I use it.

“I don’t know the reason but if you can use the power of the Demon God then even I can fight.”(renji) Why is it an Orc?

Why on the Imnesia continent?

Why was it born in such a rural place?

What was happening?

Does it have a connection with the defeat of the Demon God?

There are too many questions but I doubt my opponent can answer them.

As expected, understanding an Orc's words is impossible. That's why—— "Die."

I doubt it even understood what I said. I swung the jade divine sword. I'll have to tell him by my actions.——Black Orc, I'll kill you.

Showing my will with my words and actions, I closed the distance with it.

As the cheat in my body became even stronger, I ran even faster than normal.

At my full strength I was able to clash swords on par with the Demon God, a mere Orc who can use magic wasn't even able to react in time.

It was a miracle that it was able to even generate the Demon God's flames in the same direction as me.

But I couldn't simply ignore it either. Flashing my sword, I cut away four of its fingers.

The fingers that were cut away without any resistance flew away in all directions.

And then, it screamed. The pig's squealing resounded in the forest that had been covered in the silence of the morning till now.

The pain caused its concentration to waver and the Demon God's flame dissipated.

Frowning due to the loud scream, I cut away its throat with the return swing of the sword.

That was it. With just that, it was over. The screams disappeared and the Black Orc fell on its knees. The blood spray dirtied my cloak. Oh damn.

And, then it sunk in its own pool of blood. A heavy gloomy sound *zuun*

marked the end of the battle.

After this, all that's left is to take care of the orcs fallen in the pitfalls.

Fuu, as I exhaled, the divine sword turned back into jade green magical energy and dissipated.

"I'm tired. I feel like I worked enough for another half year."

[You barely did anything at all.....]

The amazed voice sounded really comfortable.

As expected, it suits me more when I'm not fighting.

Maybe it sensed my thoughts, Ermenhilde silently sighed.

"Ah, um....."(fran)

"Ah...oh right."(renji)

I hid my face with my right hand.

[Give up. You wanted to protect someone, right? That's why you got me, the God Slaying weapon.]

Yes.

That was the cheat, the [Power of God Slaying] that I wished for.

I wished for a God Slaying weapon.

And, I wanted to protect someone with that weapon.

That was what Yamada Renji had wished from Goddess Astrarea.

To protect someone with the God-Slaying weapon.

That was a truly distorted, cruel and a hopeless wish. An unreasonable wish that was like a contradiction in itself.

.....Why did I wish for something like that? If I were able to return to the past, I'll go punch myself.

No, that's not it.

I was simply, affected by the youths around me.

I can say it now, if I got the chance. A power that would make me

comfortable or give me absolute fortune or something like that. I want such a power.

That's why, I sighed.

The words I had easily said, its extremely complicated implication, by the time I realized it, it was already too late for me to do anything.

"Shall we return?"(renji)

"So suddenly!?! Um....the Orcs?"(fran)

We can't carry them back even as corpses. Let's go back and ask the villagers for help."(renji) The weight of an Orc was about 200Kgs. We couldn't even carry one of them with us.

We'll have to get a carriage from the village or it'll be too difficult to move them from here.

But still, it'll be many round trips before we finish this.

If we leave them as corpses, other beasts would come after them so we'll leave them just as they are inside the holes.

"It's a good haul this time. With this much it'll be easy for quite some time."(renji) "U, Um....."

Hahahaha while laughing loudly I tried to move away with the momentum but from behind me a timid voice came.

[It would have been nice if she had been fooled with the momentum, right?]

"Don't say it like it doesn't involve you, stupid."(renji) [Who's stupid?!]

I looked towards the sky.

How should I fool her?

Suddenly, my gaze moved towards the corpse of the Black Orc.

As if it was mud, it was disappearing into the ground while melting.

Miss Francesca also looked towards it while following my gaze.

".....Wh, what is that, that black orc?"(fran)

“Who knows? It should be either a mutation, new species, or a hybrid or something.”(renji) Or was it the revived Demon God? Or did it eat the flesh of the Demon God? Or was it a descendant of the Demon God?

Though I have no idea how the Demon God that had been defeated on the continent of demons had arrived to the Imnesia continent.

[It looks it’ll turn into something troublesome.]

“Don’t say it so happily.”(renji)

[If Renji would work seriously, then even troublesome things are happy things for me.]

“Are you my mother?.....”

What kind of philosophical things is this medal trying to say?

Also, I am working seriously! It’s fine as long I can spend everyday while enjoying it.

While sighing, I began to walk in the direction of the village.

And, Miss Francesca began chasing after me.

“Umm, Renji-sama?”(fran)

“You’ve got the wrong person. I’m just an adventurer, Miss Francesca.”(renji) Denying her instantly, I shrugged my shoulders.

I mean, an adventurer that has simply killed a God and a great noble. She’s the one with the higher status right? (T/N: Right.....c’mon dude....) [Kuku, Renji-sama, eh? Kukukuh.....]

“Yeah, it’s funny. Laugh as much as you like, it doesn’t suit me I know, goddamn it!”

I’m not a hero.

I can never become a hero.

That’s because my wish was a wish that is unreasonable as well as contradictory.

My cheat, [Power of God Slaying] can only work when someone else is in

danger.

A man who can't fight without putting someone's life in danger can never be called a Hero.

And that too, without fulfilling many specific conditions, a power that can't be used at all can only be considered as weak.

That's why I'm weak. Weaker than any of the other God Slayers.

I looked towards the sky where the sun had begun to rise.

[An Orc with the power of the Demon God, eh?]

"Problematic things are special rights given only to protagonists."

[And you're also one of them.]

"No way."

I flicked the medal, Ermenhilde, with my thumb.

As it fell down on my palm it was, Tails.

Aah.

"I really hate trouble."

A sigh leaked my mouth.

.

.

"By the way, to whom have you been talking to?"(fran) "…….I'm just mumbling to myself."(renji)

"I, I see…"

[Like I said, it's impossible. Well, if Renji is fine with this, I won't say anything though.]

As expected it will be painful to treat it as simply 'mumblings to myself'.

Again, I could only sigh.

This is why I hate fighting monsters. Unexpected things always happen.

.....Well, it was my bad to have used the [Power of God Slaying], I guess.

It's really my bad habit to depend on Ermenhilde every time I'm backed into a corner.

Chapter 11 The God Slayer and Orc (6)

*

While gazing at the bonfire burning in the centre of the village, I enjoyed the wooden cup filled with Ale.

Yaa~, how wonderful. There's nothing more delicious than free alcohol.

"Puhaa!"

[You are the happiest when you're drinking aren't you?.....Haah]

Why did you have to sigh there?

While confused to Ermenhilde's reaction, I drank from the cup while sitting on the seat prepared by the villagers.

The villagers who had been freed from the threat of the Orcs decided to prepare a feast for me as thanks.

Most of the villagers didn't even know that so many Orcs had gathered there but even though they seem to be super excited with the feast and all.

This world barely has many ways for enjoyment after all. Even I felt a bit more excited than usual. The alcohol also tasted better than normal.

By the way, there was no one around me. I was alone. It's not like I'm lonely. Miss Francesca who was surrounded by the villagers looked this way at times but it can't be helped.

She's the hero of the Orc subjugation this time.

I only defeated three of the Orcs after all.

The one who defeated the remaining eleven was her after all. See, she's more suited as the hero than me.

Also, it was obvious that a beauty like her would be more popular than a random looking guy like me.

[You really like bullying.]

“I know.”

Snickering, I ate the smoked Orc meat and vegetables prepared as the side dish.

Fumu, this really goes along well with it.

While enjoying the taste of the smoke meat with my Ale, I satisfied my appetite.

[What will you do know?]

“Let’s see, I haven’t thought yet.”

[.....]

As I said as if didn’t concern me, an amazed sigh came.

No, it really must have been too amazed.

But––

“I want to meet someone, without everyone noticing me.”

By everyone I mean my former comrades.

And by someone, also I mean my former comrades.

On my contradictory words, Ermenhilde gave a sigh again.

[.....the Demon God, eh?]

“I wonder about that.”

But, for some reason, a feeling of certainty is there in my heart.

The fact that 3 of the covenants of Ermenhilde were released.

If three of them had been released there, they can only be: to protect someone—Miss Francesca, my own will to fight. And the last can only be – In a fight against the Demon god. I can’t think of any else.

And it did in fact use the Demon God’s flames.

That flame was too special for a just a new species of an Orc to be able to use. If such Orcs start appearing unreservedly, it’ll be nothing less than a nightmare.

Well, in the end it was just a mere Orc though.

Monsters that could use magic existed like flies in the demon continent Abenelm.

“Um.....”

While I was thinking such things, Miss Francesca returned with a tired expression.

Maybe she was made to drink alcohol by the village chief and the men, her face was slightly red.

As I looked towards the bonfire, couples, lovers and families were enjoying the feast together.

“nn, oh well done.”(renji)

“No, not that.....or rather, shouldn’t it be Renji-sama that—“

“Those kinds of things don’t suit me.”

I shrugged my shoulders.

I know what she wants to say but I’ll deny her in her still.

“Also, rather than an old man like me, a beauty would be more popular.”

“.....I don’t really think so though. It was Renji-sama that defeated that black Orc after all.”

Averting her gaze, but with a smile, she said so.

Probably, she reacted to the word ‘beauty’ I think. How innocent.

[Even though you realize that you still say such things, you really are the worst.....]

“And you’re bitter as usual as well.”

Replying that, I sipped my Ale.

“Ahem. Rather than that, Renji-sama—“

“No, can you stop with that ‘Renji-sama’?”

“That’s……it will be too rude of me.”

“No in fact, making a noble talk like that is rude of me I think.”

Well, I don’t really treat nobles in the proper manner anyway either though.

After all I’m drinking Ale in front of a noble like normal. When you talk about manners, it should be more of that kneeling on one knee and stuff like that.

While looking at the stiffened Miss Francesca, I wondered about what I should do.

It has been like this all the time after completing the subjugation of those Orcs.

I am supposed to be just a normal adventurer. And it would look weird if the hero of this village stayed so humble towards me like that.

And I also want myself to be treated as a normal adventurer.

I doubt it’d be that easy though.

Well, I have somewhat gotten used to such things after being summoned as a God Slayer to this world.

I didn’t want to get used to it but, everyone around me started bowing their heads around me. Living like that for 2 years straight, one would get used to it even if it’s irritating.

It really was uncomfortable to see a 40 year old knight commander bowing respectfully to a 15 year old boy.

Even the boy himself was flustered about what to do. (T/N: note that he’s not talking about himself here.) “Well, with this my contract with Miss Francesca is also over. I am praying for you to successfully pass your test.”(renji) Thanks to the reward I received from Miss Francesca and this Orc subjugation, my wallet is warm.

I wonder where should I go next.

There’s Utano-san and Kuuki-kun in the royal capital. Also Toudou.

Able to use all kinds of magic and also fast in thinking. The [Sage], Utano Yuuko, on whom everyone depended during our journey. She's also the same age as me.

Kuuki Yuta, who is currently enrolled in the knights squadron if I recall correctly. He should be 20 this year I think.

And, the cook Toudou Hiiragi who has apparently opened up a restaurant in the royal capital. He's 2 years younger than me at 26.

Everyone else is also at other big cities I think. I'm not sure of their exact locations though.

If I have to talk about the Demon God, then, let's go to Toudou.

In his restaurant, we can talk while eating his delicious meals which I haven't eaten in a long time.

That might be good. My wallet's in good condition right now as well.

"....."

While I was thinking that, Miss Francesca was looking at me with a troubled smile.

"Wanna sit?"(renji)

"Then excuse me."(fran)

Even though there's such a beauty in front of me, it's rude of me to be thinking of other things I guess.

Since she seemed to be holding a fruit juice in her cup, a smell completely different from Ale came to my nose.

Wait, she didn't drink alcohol at all?

"What will you be doing from here onwards?"(Fran) "nn?"

While I was regretting the fact that I didn't take her to a bar even once, she asked me that.

By here onwards, she means after parting with her?

Even if drunk, I can still understand that much.

“I’m thinking of going to the royal capital. That or.....maybe take some other request in some village.”

Well, I have things to do but my destination isn’t set yet.

For the time being, I simply want to go eat Toudou’s cooking.

“Then, will you escort me till the Magic City?”(fran) “No, won’t you be fine with a carriage? I won’t take a carriage you know? Too costly for me.”(renji) “.....I see....”

[Even she’s amazed.]

Shaddup.

Just because my wallet’s a bit filled right now doesn’t mean I can start spending on such luxuries.

My reward this time was 1 gold coin from Miss Francesca.

Also, 4 gold coins for the 13 Orcs. This will be divided between me and Miss Francesca equally.

(T/N: Reminder that in this world Silver>gold>copper.) And also, almost every part of the Orc is eatable. Its intestines can be made into sausages and if sold to a merchant as dried meat or smoke meat, 1 Orc could get you 50 coppers, if prepared well, sometimes even 1 gold can be made.

And there were 13 of them. The villagers were super happy to have gotten such a stock. It could be sold for money and could also be used as preserved food for winters.

Thus, currently I had 3 gold coins in my wallet and also the change remaining from the 1 gold I had received as advance from Miss Francesca. I’ll be able to live a relaxed life for some time.

“Well, I doubt we’ll get any carriages here though.”

It seems this village doesn’t really interact with other villages.

It’s not that remote of a place so it must be because they don’t have any specialties here.

If they were a lake/sea, they’ll have fishes, the village I was in before

had medicinal herbs and Alcohol. This village also has alcohol but they don't have enough to be sold as a special product.

And so merchants don't come to such villages. They don't earn much here after all.

They have nothing much to sell means that they don't have any stock either.

They do have Orc meat now but this is only a one-time thing.

Let's hope that they're able to sell that meat for as high price as possible.

"Yes. Also, they don't know when a merchant will pass through either....."(fran) "Well, that's troublesome."(renji)

Though she was able to face the Orcs, I'm still anxious to let Miss Francesca travel on foot alone.

Our contract is complete but our relationship isn't that of strangers either.

I'll have nightmares if she died alone on the way.

"It'll take at least one week on foot to reach the Magic City, eh?"(renji) Saying that, I looked towards her.

Somehow she seemed to making an amazingly happy face so I ended up looking away again.

That was embarrassing. Young ones really have so much energy. While thinking that, I diverted my thoughts.

"I'll get a reward right?"(renji)

"Of course!"(fran)

[You sure don't forget about that, huh?]

"Obviously."(renji)

As I flicked the medal, Miss Francesca was covering her mouth with her hand and laughing.

She can't hear Ermenhilde but she must have realized who I was talking to.

I did explain that to her just in case so at least I won't be treated as a lunatic who talks to a medal.

"You get along well, right?"(fran)

"Not really."(renji)

[.....]

Now it was sulking. That part of Ermenhilde is really cute I think.

"I'm envious."(fran)

It looks fun to her.

Also, since Miss Francesca still hasn't gotten used to travelling, it might take 10 days to the Magic City.

Considering what she said, even with 10 days we should still have enough time for her test. I think, she still has 2 weeks. Well, if we find a carriage in between, it'll be even faster though.

If that happens, I'll also get relieved earlier. Magic City is full of nobles after all, there might be a few who know me there. If possible, I don't want to get close to that place.

It might be fine to separate after getting her close to the city as well.

While I was calculating such things inside my head, I sipped my Ale.

"If possible I'd prefer if it stopped the continuous scolding you know....."(Renji) [If you lived normally and systematically, I won't say a thing.]

Is that so? If I start living like a normal person, then you'll start asking me to live like a hero next.

As I took another gulp of the Ale.....the wooden cup was empty.

I sighed.

"There are God Slayers even in the school I go to, you see."(fran) "....."

[Well isn't that great. You'll achieve you're objective even without going to the royal capital.]

No no, it might not be that good.

Just when I was thinking what to do about my empty Ale, Miss Francesca gave me another cup.

She really is a sensible child.

"Thanks.....is that so?"(renji)

"Yes. Souichi-sama and Yayoi-sama. Also Aya-sama. Those three."

[Those brother and sister and your disciple eh?]

"It wasn't something that exaggerated. Or rather, those guys are far more stronger than me....."

I wonder how can such a person be my disciple?

In fact, in terms of ability, won't I be the disciple? I'll only be a useless disciple since I can't even use magic though.

[Is that so? I remember her running around you saying Renji-san~ Renji-san~ back then though.]

"It was a long time ago."(renji)

That doesn't mean it'll be the same even till now.

In fact there's a high chance that they'd glare at me with cold gaze and ask where I was and what I was doing after leaving them like that. On imagining that, I felt a bit scared.

If I was talked to like that by them who I think of like my younger brother and sister, even I won't be able to recover from the shock.

I started feeling depressed just thinking about it.

Or rather, those three are together in the Magic Academy eh?

They should be around 18 right now. It's an age perfect for going to school I guess.

But even then, while travelling around the world, defeating monsters,

fighting the demon lord, killing the Demon God, they were only 15,16 years old……

“I’m amazed they didn’t become delinquents.”(renji) [That’s true.]

We two……well, me and an item, recalled such old memories.

While we did that, Miss Francesca tilted her head confused since she couldn’t hear Ermenhilde.

I guess from the side I must really look weird.

“Shall we call it a day?”(renji)

“Already?”(fran)

“I’m tired after all.”

Saying that, I shrugged my shoulders.

“I worked enough for half a year.”(renji)

[Work more!]

If I feel like it. Whispering that, I stood up.

“Miss Francesca also, we’ll leave the village tomorrow so go to sleep if you’re tired.”(renji) “Yes, I understand.”(fran)

As I looked up, the red waning moon could be seen.

While hearing the voices of the villagers, I began to walk.

[…….you won’t let her hear my voice yet?]

“Well, I’m not sure how much I should trust her.”

I do trust her well.

As a person that is.

But, I don’t know the circumstances of the noble called Francesca Barton yet.

It’s normal for something unexpected to happen during monster subjugation.

But even then, is it really not weird for schools to let students gamble

with their lives like this in this world?

I haven't heard anything like this but.....in the first place, I'm not sure how schools are like in this world.

"I really don't want any more trouble."

[Then you should have just abandoned her.]

"haah.....you say that as if it's so easy."

[I have a slight understanding of what kind of human Renji is after all.]

Stop it, it's embarrassing.

I flicked the medal with a *ping*.

"Well, in any case, it's only till the Magic City."

Tails.

I sighed, once again.

[Even though you hate trouble you can't abandon even strangers. That's why, Renji is a Hero.]

I have no intention to be one though.

"I'm not a Hero. That's why, I want to live peacefully in a rural village."

To become able to fight only when someone gets into danger.

A Hero like that doesn't exist.

Interlude 2 The Academy Life of the Brave

*

(Souichi (Brave) POV)

Albana Magic Academy.

It is the oldest academy with a honourable origin. Publically, that is.

True, it is honourable and is definitely the oldest academy in the Magic City as well.

Every student that goes there either possesses a high status or is highly talented in magic.

But, that doesn't necessarily mean that all of those students possess a proper personality as well. After all, they are boys and girls in their teens. Even if they know what's right or wrong, they lose to their own curiosity.

They want to indulge in dangerous things, hating boredom, they seek for thrill.

And even when they know that it's bad and dangerous, they still end up doing it.

"So?"

"It really was troublesome, you know? The demon inside the grimoire sealed in the magic room was really strong."

"fuun"

A blue robe worn over a white blouse. One could tell at a single glance that the robe that had gold embroidery was a high class item.

The fabric also looked excellent. I don't really know but apparently it had been created with a fabric which is very popular with the girls, and both Aya and Yayoi were very happy with it when we first came here.

A knee long skirt of the same colour as the robe and underneath it were black stockings. That was the uniform of the Albana Magic Academy.

It is considered as a somewhat obvious fact in this academy that girls don't show of much of their skin.

The uniform remains the same, just with thinner fabric, even in summers so apparently it's really hot though.

My childhood friend wearing that uniform was informing me about the incident that happened in the magic room last week while puffing her non-existent chest proudly.

I'll get beaten to death if I said that so I won't though. I have become mature. The mouth is the source of calamity.

"Well done, I guess."

"…….you're really speaking in a tone as if doesn't really concern you, you know?"

"After all it's a demon that could be sealed inside a Grimoire right? Something like that won't even be a proper enemy for Aya."

The fact it had been sealed inside a grimoire means that most of that demon's magical power had been sealed inside the book.

Even if the seal was released, all the magical energy won't return back to its body instantly.

Then, Aya, who fought on par with the Demon Lord won't even have any problems in defeating it.

Her neat black hair that had been tied to the left side as side ponytail slightly swayed.

Big, cat-like eyes. They were also black.

It's a bit rare in this other world but she looks like a typical Japanese.

Similarly, myself as well as my aforementioned sister, Yayoi, also have the same colour of hair and eyes.

"So you sneaked into the Magic Room and laid your hands on the sealed grimoire. As usual, I'm envious of your stimulating, thrill-filled lifestyle."(Souichi) Saying that, I turned towards the notes spread in front

of me on the desk.

As for me, I could only worry for the test in the next class.

I looked towards her with a gaze asking her to let me study.

“Souichi, you still suck at studies eh?”(Aya)

“Aya, you’re just too intelligent.”(souichi)

I had difficulty just getting used to the letters of this world, and at the same time, this childhood friend of mine in front of me could easily read even complex grimoires.

This must be the difference between a genius and a normal person, I couldn’t help but think like that.

I may have been praised as the Brave and whatnot but inside I’m still a normal person.

I specialise in fighting but suck at studying. Even the Brave is a normal human.

“Is that so?”(aya)

“After all, Aya, you can even read those earthworm like letters of those magic writings. When did you even learn something like that?”

“Yuuko-san taught me during our journey.”

On hearing that, I feel that maybe I should have also learnt something like that as well during our journey.

Not just how to swing the sword. Well, it’s too late now though.

As I sighed, Aya laughed at me.

With just that, the whole class focused on Aya.

Aya is cute, or so I’m told. I don’t really understand though.

She’s popular with the guys of the class and some even confessed to her. Even though she sinks them everytime.

Aya, already has a guy she likes after all.

By the way, my younger sister Yayoi who is in the class one year below

ours, also gets confessed to a lot.

And apparently, a condition that first they have to go through me before that has been set apparently. Yayoi said that when she got confessed and got me needlessly involved in the chaos.

.....Even though I'm not, why the hell do I have to act like I'm some over-protective elder brother?

"I did say that, didn't I? To read books every time we stopped at inns?"(aya) "That's true."(souichi)

Saying that, I dropped my shoulders.

"By the way, do you know? A letter came from Yuuko-san yesterday."(aya) "Huh? For what?"

Just when I was going to finally start reading the notes again, Aya started talking again.

Does she not have a single friend? I shouldn't say that out loud.

"Renji-san is near this city apparently."

"Eh? This is the first I'm hearing of such a thing!?"

I raised my voice due to the sudden amazing news.

Everyone's gazes focused on me, in a different meaning than Aya's, and I cleared my though and calmed myself down.

Renji-niichan.

During our journey to kill the Demon God, he is a man who travelled with us. The oldest among us all and who was always gentle with us.

Even though he was lazy, he was amazingly strong. A person who always took the coolest parts.

He's also someone we admire greatly. No matter how painful the situation was, he always walked in front of us. We travelled while chasing his back.

.....he got us lost sometimes though.

When I was in pain, or tired due to the journey, when I lost someone close to me, he was the one that comforted me. He always stayed by me.

.....he taught some weird things to cheer me up though.

Peeping, or guiding me through the night city, etc.

After that, we were scolded a lot by Yuuko-san though. Even though we concealed ourselves, how did those guys know about it?

I still don't know the reason.

Well, I'll think about such nostalgic things later.

"Was Renji-niichan found?"(souichi)

"Yeah. It seems he accepted a request in a village near the Magic City."(aya) "Ah, so he really is working as an adventurer."

"So it seems. He seems to be helping people as always, I guess."

Saying that, Aya laughed happily and somewhat proudly.

Why the heck is Aya acting so proud? I shouldn't say that out loud either.

"Before that, he had been exterminating an Ogre in the south right?"(souichi) "That was 3 months ago. This time, he had been exterminating Orc that seem to have gathered. I think there were 15 of them."(aya) "haaa.....As usual eh? Renji-niichan."

"fufun."

While I was surprised, Aya puffed up her chest proudly again. No, you aren't the amazing one, Aya.

Heh, I smiled wryly while looking at her face.

For Aya, Renji-niichan is special.

Since we're childhood friends, I know since I have been the closest to her.

Aya had been always chasing after Renji-niichan's back. She always went to talk to him on her own.

“Also, he sold his Mithril sword to a village that was having money problems as well. It has become quite a big topic at the Royal Castle, it seems.”(aya) “.....as usual, the things he does is.....”

He always stays one step ahead of our expectations.

I think, there are only 13 of those Mithril Swords in the whole world that we possess.

Well, it’s quality is obviously lesser than Er-san but I doubt its something that can be sold dirt cheap.

Even a single sword can buy a whole mansion easily.

To sell it to a village having money problems eh?.....I gave a sigh.

Well, obviously it’ll become a huge topic. I hope the King isn’t angry. Though Yuuko-san would be definitely angry, I think.

“I think he stayed for about a month in that village.”(aya) “After that, he went for the Orc subjugation?”(souichi) “Yeah.”

He really lives freely, as usual.

That is very Renji-niichan-like though.

“That’s good right? Renji-san is safe.”(souichi)

“Don’t say such ominous things, idiot!”(aya)

I was scolded. Why? Before I could even think that, my head was hit.

It was lightly but it still hurts. And once again the gazes of the class focused towards us.

Leave me out of this.

“Renji-san won’t die that easily. Mou, saying such unlucky things.....”(aya) She started grumbling now.

Well, I think the same way though.

But I did get worried since his whereabouts went missing about three months ago.

I felt relieved knowing that he’s fine. Aya is the same. Her expression

feels much softer than usual.

She had been sighing a lot recently so I'm happy as well.

"I don't really get it but sorry."(souichi)

"Don't apologise if you don't even know the reason!"(aya) I was hit again. Why??

Getting hit two times is unreasonable so I looked towards her only to get glared at.

I averted my gaze.

For some reason, I can't win against Aya. It has been like that since we were children. I ended up sighing towards such a me.

When I did that——

"Don't be so weakly!"(aya)

I was scolded again.

In the end, I couldn't study at all for the test. I could only sigh.....haah.

.

.

.

After the test was over, I left the class.

It was so-so. In the end, I think I was able to do well.

Even though the lesson ended just now, barely any students could be seen.

Aya should be with her friends. Yayoi as well.

I, for some reason, felt like eating alone.

"Time for lunch~ lunch~"(souichi)

As I moved towards the cafeteria, I felt my lips slacken a bit.

I must have become happy due to what Aya told me.

Renji-niichan. Though I believed that he was fine, it still is a relief to

hear it properly.

I think it should be the same for Aya as well. Among all of us, Renji-niichan was the one who was the most fixated on [Killing the God].

When asking for the cheat from the Goddess, we wished for fighting power and other convenient powers.

But even then, only Renji-niichan asked for a power solely to defeat the Demon God.

The [God Slaying Weapon] Ermenhilde––Er-san.

It was a weapon which was like a very normal weapon against anyone except the Demon God. This made Yuuko-san and Hiiragi-san feel very sad at first.

Though it could talk and was a funny person. Well, not a person but a medal.

In reality, Renji-niichan was only slightly stronger than an average human in fights except when fighting against the Demon God or his descendants.

All of us knew that. But even though we knew that, we ended up depending on Renji-niichan.

In a fight, I was stronger, I could defeat more monsters.

But, the one who defeated the Demon Lord was Renji-nicchan and it was also Renji-nicchan that dealt the final blow to the Demon God as well.

Everytime we were cornered, Renji-niichan was the first one to stand at the very front.

Everytime we wished for someone to save us, Renji-niichan was the first one to run to help us.

“I hope Renji-niichan’s is healthy and safe.”(souichi)

Though the journey was harsh, it was fun because everyone was together.

This world is a different world and we could trust the 13 of summoned

together the most.

There are many who are good towards us or get along with us but I guess you can still trust the ones from your own world the most.

That's why I want to be with Renji-niichan. I want to talk to him.

I call him niichan but he feels more like a father to me. That's why, I want to meet him and be with him.

My reason is obviously different than Aya or Yuuko-san but I want to meet Renji-san as well.

But Renji-niichan is going around villages resolving troublesome things.

With Er-san on his side, I could imagine him defeating groups of Ogres and Goblins which can't be matched by normal adventurers.

I think it really suits him.

It's not like the Holy Sword that I received from the Goddess.

A weapon only to kill the Demon God. That beautiful jewel-like weapon. A weapon not to protect someone, but to simply to kill Gods. And the person who wished to save and protect people with that weapon.

That back, we kept chasing after it forever. And finally, we stand here, where we are now.

That's why—-

"I really want to see him again."

Taking out a copper coin from my pocket, I flicked it with *ping* sound.

The coin didn't rotate properly and I panicked to catch it so that I don't drop it.

Renji-niichan's habit.

Since he always flicked Er-san like that, I tried to mimic him. But, I can't do it well. Aya always laughs at me for it. That it doesn't suit me.

But, I'm not Renji-niichan, neither do I want to become like him.

That's why I only try to mimic him.

So that I can persevere and do my best like him. So that I can move forward and become a man on whom people can rely on.

I am called a Brave, and possess the Holy Sword of the Goddess but that's it.

The Goddess pleaded all of us to save this world but the one that Goddess holds the dearest is Renji-niichan.

That Goddess should be looking over Renji-niichan all the time.

That's why I want to meet him as well.

If we can meet him, Aya would also be definitely happy.

Both me and Yayoi would be happy as well but Aya would be much more delighted.

"I wonder if he'll come and watch the combat competition in Royal Capital."

In 2 months time, a once in a year giant festival shall take place in the royal capital.

The test to compete in that will also end soon.

I will also take part. Or rather, I was requested to take part in it.

——I wonder if Renji-niichan would also take part. I guess not, I smiled wryly.

He hates standing out after all.

But, I'm looking forward to it slightly. 5 people will take part from this magic academy.

Me and Aya, the rest of the 3 are yet to be decided. That's because not every student has returned as of yet.

Actually only one is remaining. A senpai who's late so it's become a bit of a topic.

Francesca Barton senpai. I have seen her once, she's a really amazing beauty.

Will she return, or will the exam period end earlier?

2 days remain till the end of the examination period.

Credits

Translation by : Shikkaku Translations

~ epub version 1.1 by Demonic~